Kaiji KAWAGUCHI

かわぐちかいじ

ZIPANG

ZIPANG

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Kaiji
KAWAGUCHI

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BIG kana

BIG kana

ZIPANG

1

かわぐちかいじ

MORNING KC

講談社

モーニング
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ZIPANG

1

かわぐちかいじ

今からたかだか60年前。日本人は、
アメリカをはじめ世界を相手に戦争を仕掛けた……。
国を挙げての殺し合いをおっ始めたわけで、
今から考えればとんでもない事態なのだが、
それをとんでもないと考えない人々も当時はいたようだ。
そのギャップってなんだろうという問いから、
この物語を始めたい。

かわぐちかいじ

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1

かわぐちかいじ

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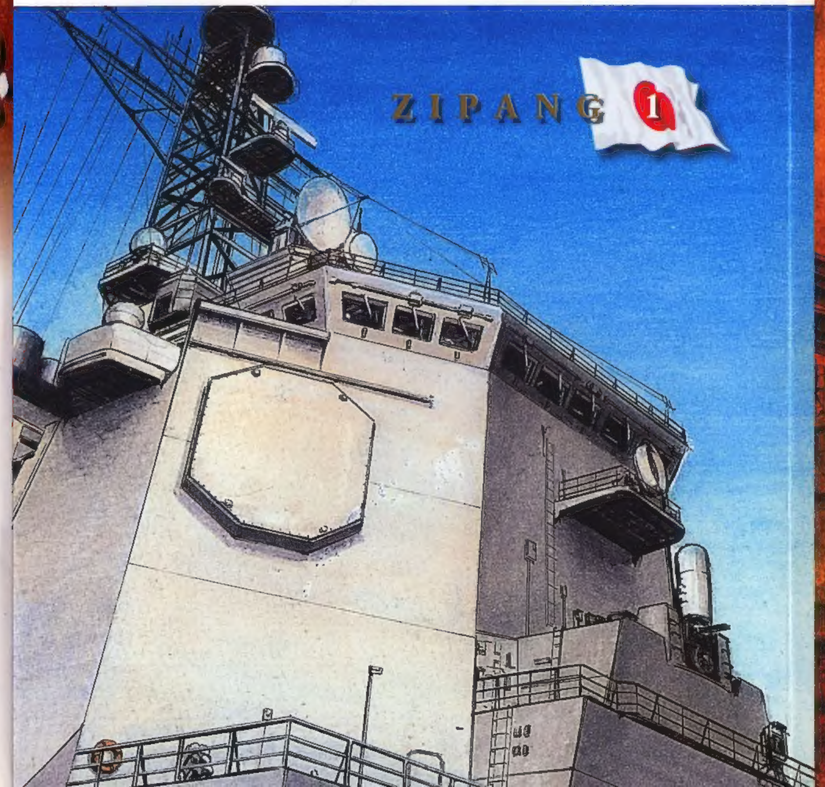

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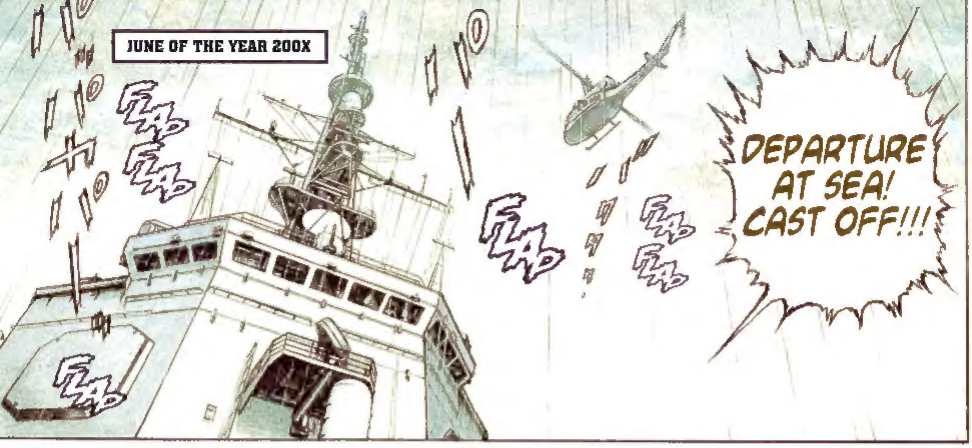
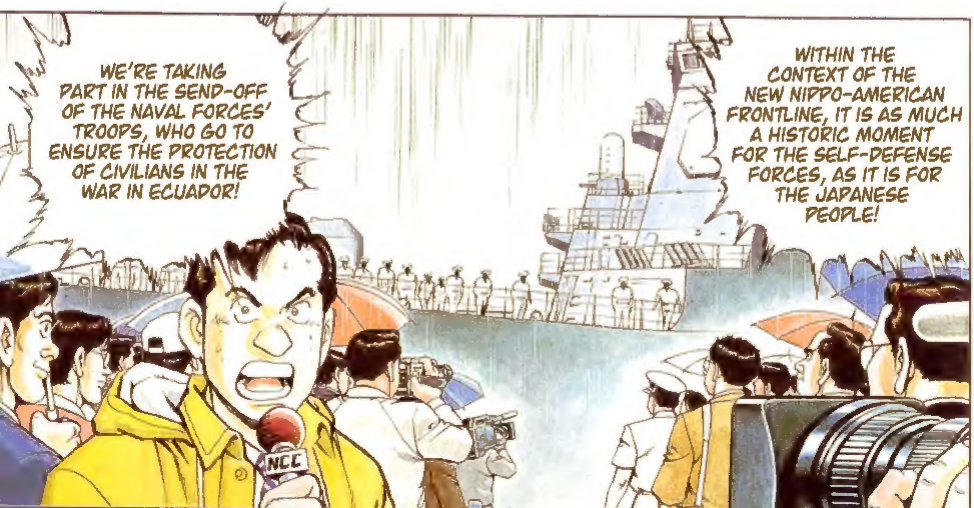
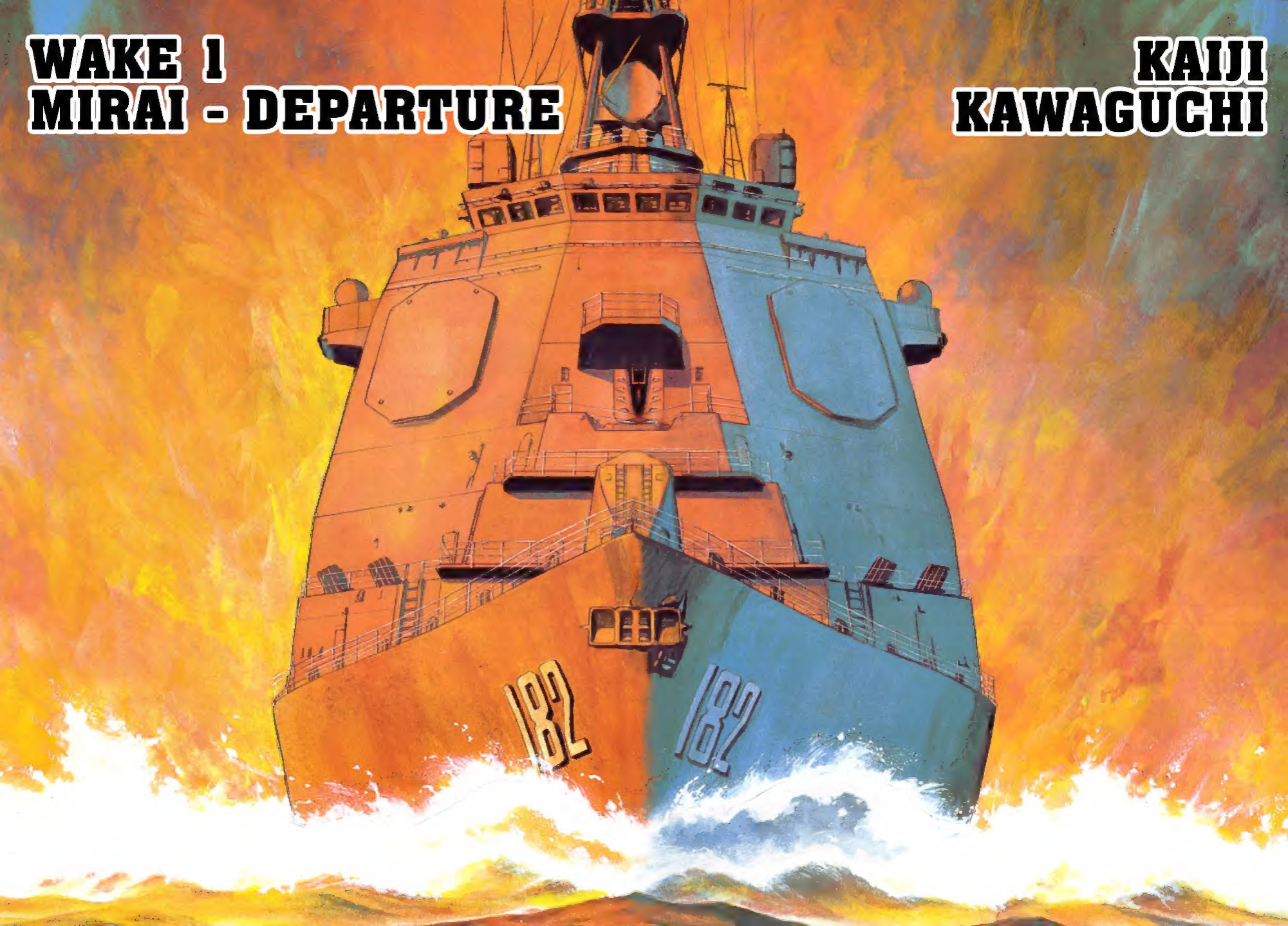

JUNE OF THE YEAR 200X
FLAP FLAP
FLAP
FLAP FLAP
FLAP
DEPARTURE AT SEA! CAST OFF!!!

182
JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCES' BASE AT YOKOSUKA


WE'RE TAKING PART IN THE SEND-OFF OF THE NAVAL FORCES' TROOPS, WHO GO TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN THE WAR IN ECUADOR!
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW NIPPO-AMERICAN FRONTLINE, IT IS AS MUCH A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES, AS IT IS FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!
NCC

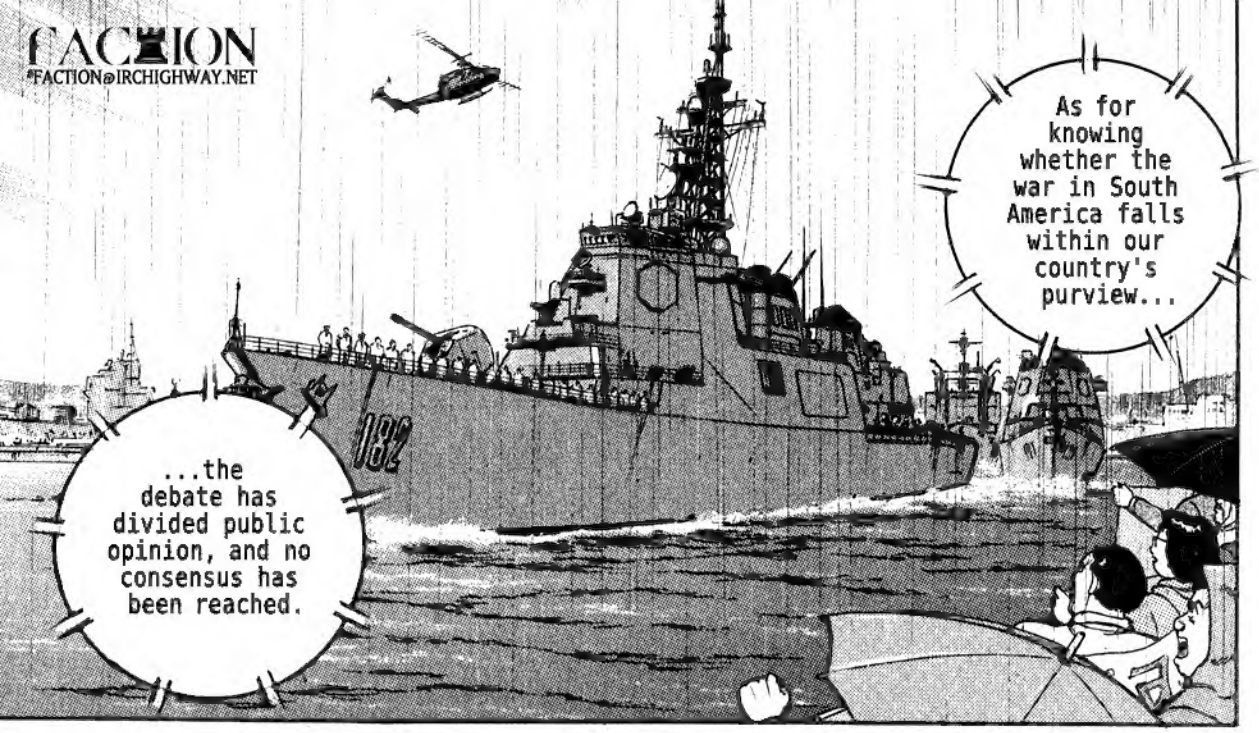
WAKE 1
MIRAI - DEPARTURE

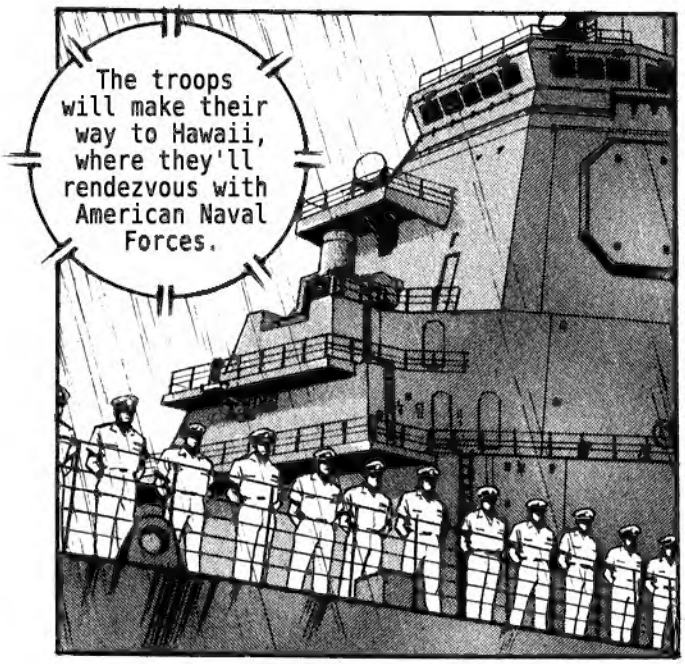
KAIJI
KAWAGUCHI



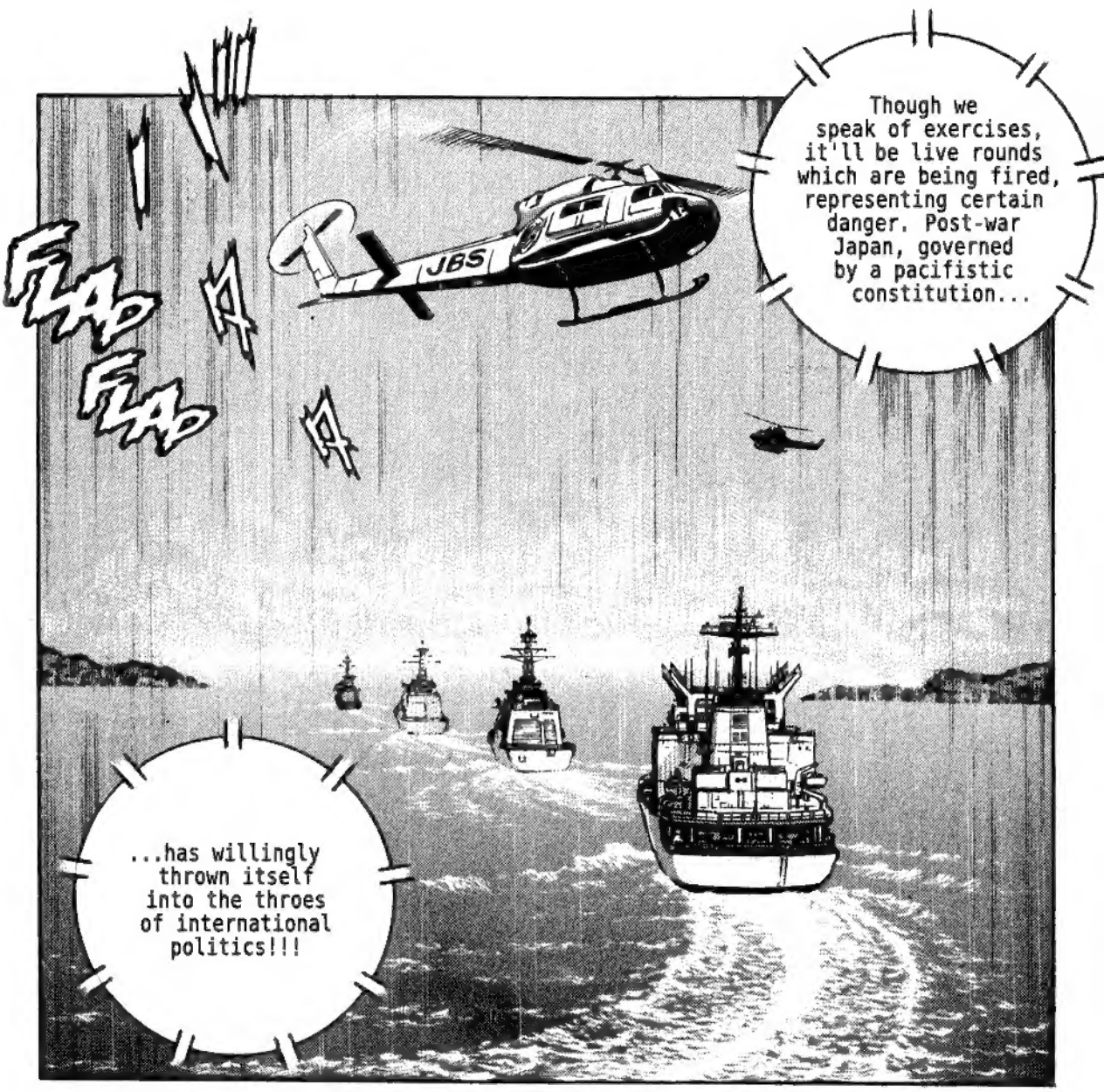
AT MY COMMAND, SALUTE!
A total of four ships, including two new models equipped with Aegis* systems, the Haruka and the Mirai, and a resupply ship, the Amagi!!
The first of the protection forces have boarded the lead ship, the Yukinami...
違憲だ!!
*AEGIS: STATE-OF-THE-ART AIR, SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM
**THE NEW UNCONSTITUTIONAL NIPPON-AMERICAN FRONTLINE

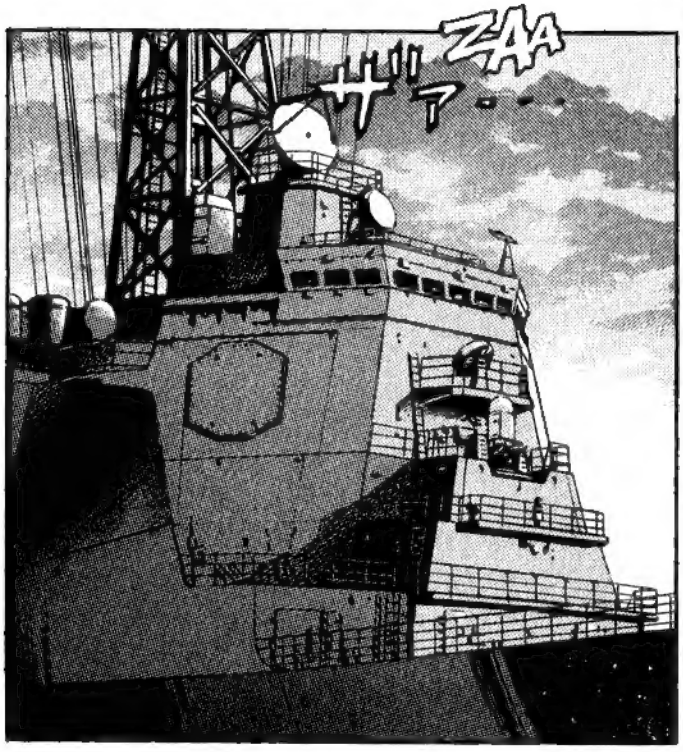
FACTION
#FACTION@IRCHIGHWAY.NET

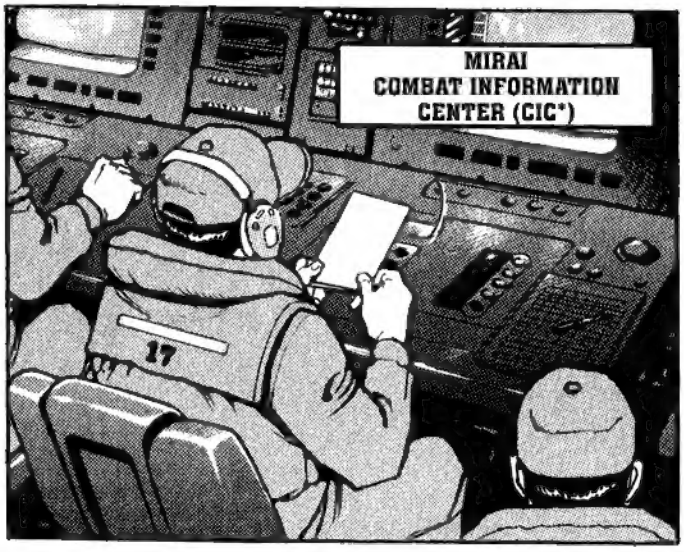

As for knowing whether the war in South America falls within our country's purview...
...the debate has divided public opinion, and no consensus has been reached.

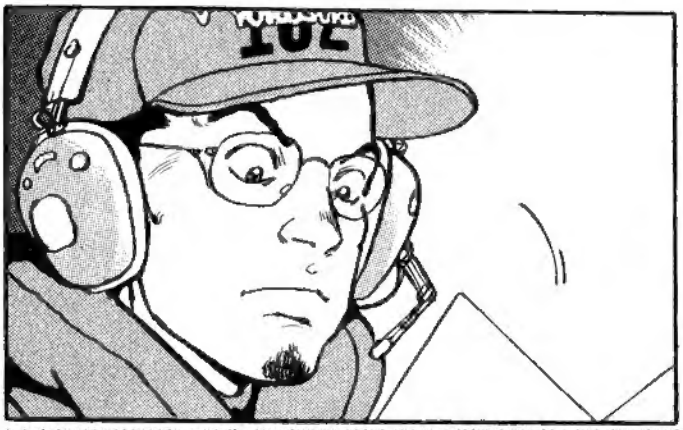


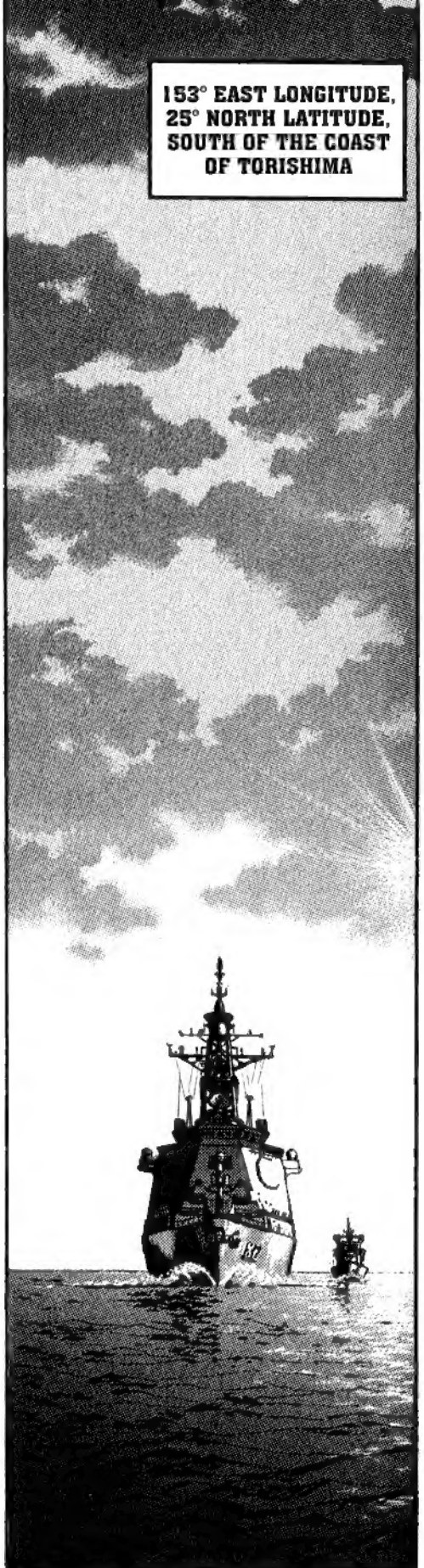
The government has approved joint-operation exercises with the American Navy...
YOU'RE MAKING A MOCKERY OF OUR COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION! SHAME ON YOU!
YOU LOUSY BUNCH OF AMERICAN BOOTLICKERS!
反対


FLAP FLAP
JBS
Though we speak of exercises, it'll be live rounds which are being fired, representing certain danger. Post-war Japan, governed by a pacifistic constitution...
...has willingly thrown itself into the throes of international politics!!!









*CIC (COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER): THE COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS HUB OF A SHIP. THE CIC CREW SUPPORTS THE BRIDGE AND DECK OFFICER BY COLLECTING AND ANALYZING TACTICAL DATA. THEIR DUTIES INCLUDE, TRACKING AND IDENTIFYING SURFACE AND AIR CONTACTS VIA RADAR, OPERATING SATELLITE AND RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, ETC.

MAXIMUM SPEED! STEER 20° TO PORT!!!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COMMANDER
YÔSUKE KADOMATSU

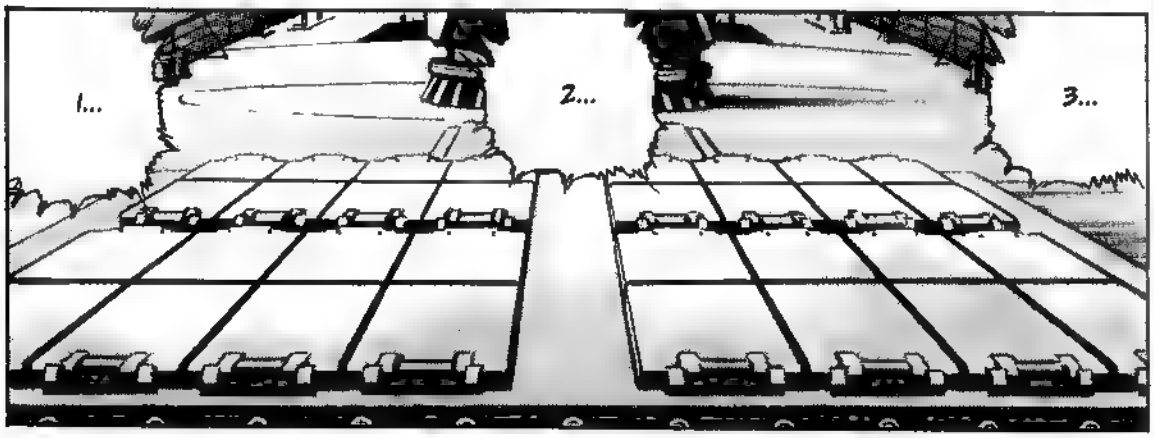
ENEMY SHIPS' MISSILES APPROACHING RAPIDLY!

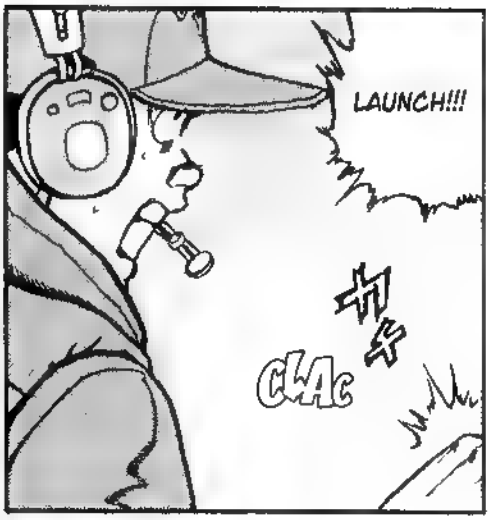
124°, DISTANCE-- 100 000, THREE CONFIRMED!!!

LET'S GO PEOPLE! STEER 20° TO PORT.

ACTIVE RADAR EMANATING FROM OUR TARGET! WE'RE LOCKED ON!

*VLS (VERTICAL LAUNCHING SYSTEM): A FIXED, VERTICAL, MULTI-MISSILE STORAGE AND FIRING SYSTEM THAT IS THE MOST ADVANCED OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD





ANTI-SHIP CRUISE MISSILES AND LOW LEVEL AIRCRAFT AT SHORT RANGE

THAT'S YOU, DUMBASS"!
HUM?
STARBOARD HIT TO VESSEL BY ENEMY MISSILE!!
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER YANAGI WOUNDED!!
WATER'S INFILTRATED THE ENGINE ROOM!
CONTACT THE SENIOR NURSING OFFICER! GET HIM EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE!
HE'S REALLY PASSED OUT!!

WHAT THE HELL'D YOU LEARN IN NAVAL SCHOOL, YOU DIMWITS!!
IT GOES IN THE OTHER WAY!
KEEP DRAGGING YOUR FEET LIKE THAT AND WE'LL END UP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN!
TAC
OW!!!
BOOM

IN ADDITION, PETTY OFFICER FUJIKI, FROM THE FIRST SECTION, AND CHIEF PETTY OFFICER YANAGI, FROM THE SECOND SECTION, WERE INJURED!!

EXERCISE TERMINATED AT 1930 HOURS!

REPORT!!!

ROGER! WE'RE FIVE MINUTES BEHIND...

FUJIKI...?

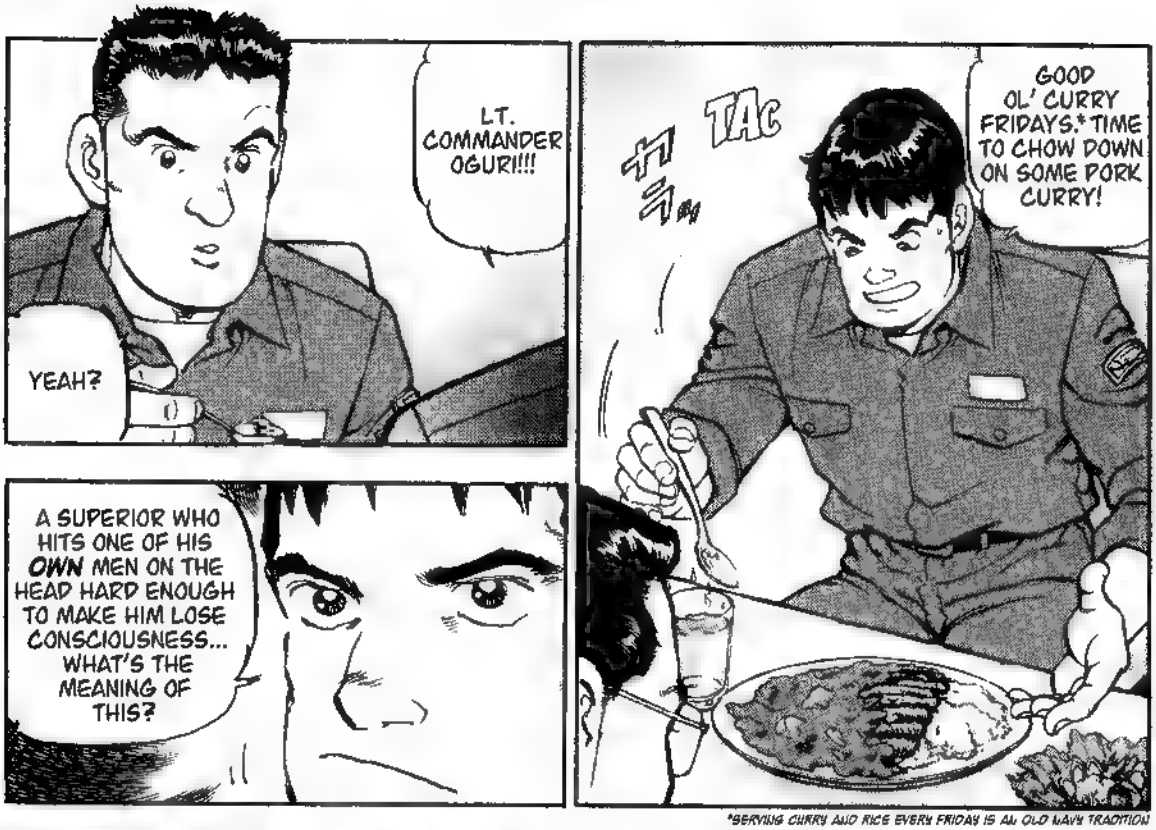
AN UNPLANNED INJURY DURING THE EXERCISE? WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'LL WORK OUT...

HE HIT HIS HAND DURING THE SEALING MANEUVER!!!

MIRAI SKIPPER
CAPTAIN SABURÔ UMEZO

YESSIR
COMPARED TO THE TEN MINUTES WE WERE BEHIND BY LAST MONTH
I'D SAY WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS
AND DON'T LET YOURSELF GET ALL STRESSED EITHER
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH OR YOU WON'T LAST THE LONG HAUL
CLINK
BROOHAHA
SCRAPE
CLINK
AH!


LT. COMMANDER OGURI!!!
YEAH?
GOOD OL' CURRY FRIDAYS.* TIME TO CHOW DOWN ON SOME PORK CURRY!
TAC
A SUPERIOR WHO HITS ONE OF HIS OWN MEN ON THE HEAD HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS... WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

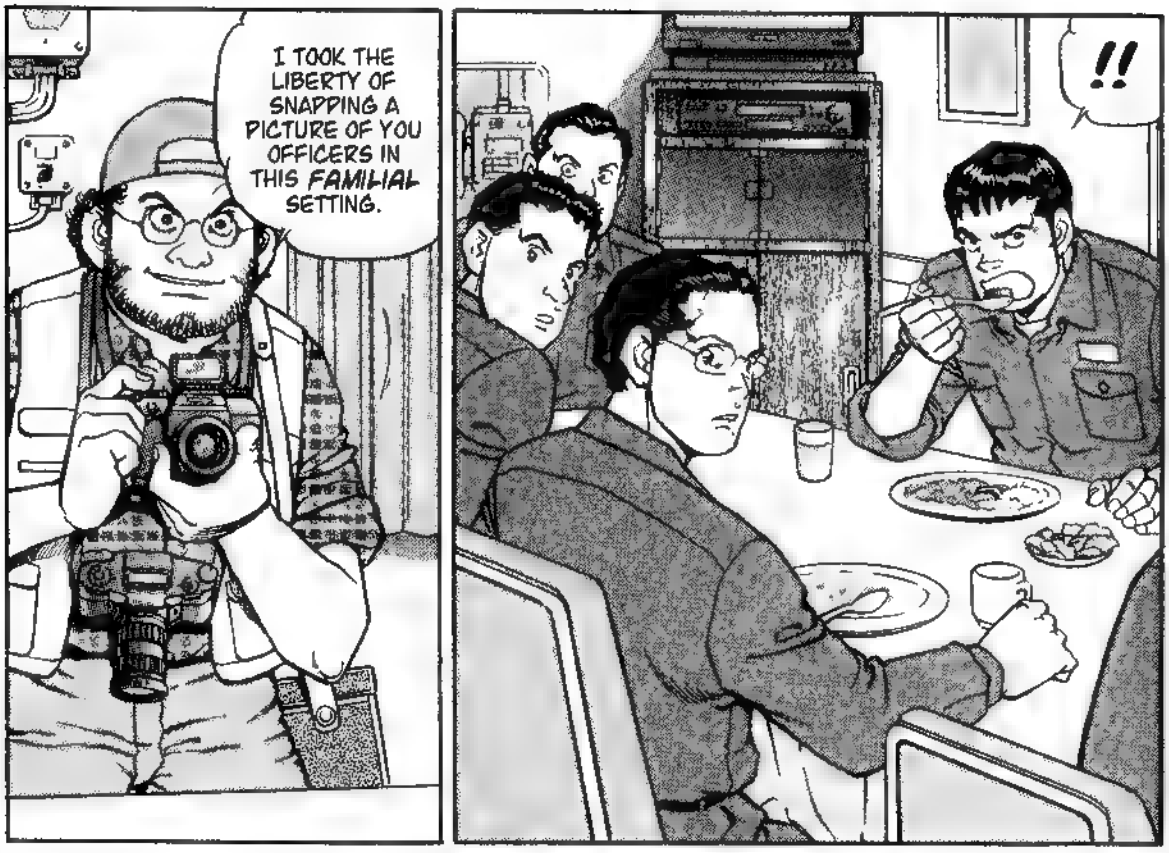
*SERVING CURRY AND RICE EVERY FRIDAY IS AN OLD NAVY TRADITION

...THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO INSPIRE THE MEN.
"IT'LL WORK OUT," THAT'S WHAT THE CAPTAIN ALWAYS SAYS, BUT...
BUT WE'RE NO LONGER IN A RIMPAC* EXERCISE.
IF THE BRASS CHOSE OUR SHIP THIS TIME AROUND, IT'S BECAUSE CAPTAIN UMEZU "JUDGED", WITH HIS USUAL EQUANIMITY, THAT THERE WASN'T ANY DANGER...
?
QUIERO HACER EL AMOR CON TI!!

*RIMPAC "RIM OF THE PACIFIC" IS A LARGE-SCALE, INTERNATIONAL, NAVAL EXERCISE (IT INVOLVES SUBMARINES, SHIPS, CARRIERS AND AIRCRAFT) HELD EVERY EVEN YEAR BEGINNING IN 1971. ITS PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE THE U.S., AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CHILE, ENGLAND AND JAPAN. RIMPAC'S OBJECTIVE IS TO INCREASE MUTUAL COOPERATION AND IMPROVE COMBINED RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AMONG THE COUNTRIES AROUND THE RIM OF THE PACIFIC IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT ON THE SEA.

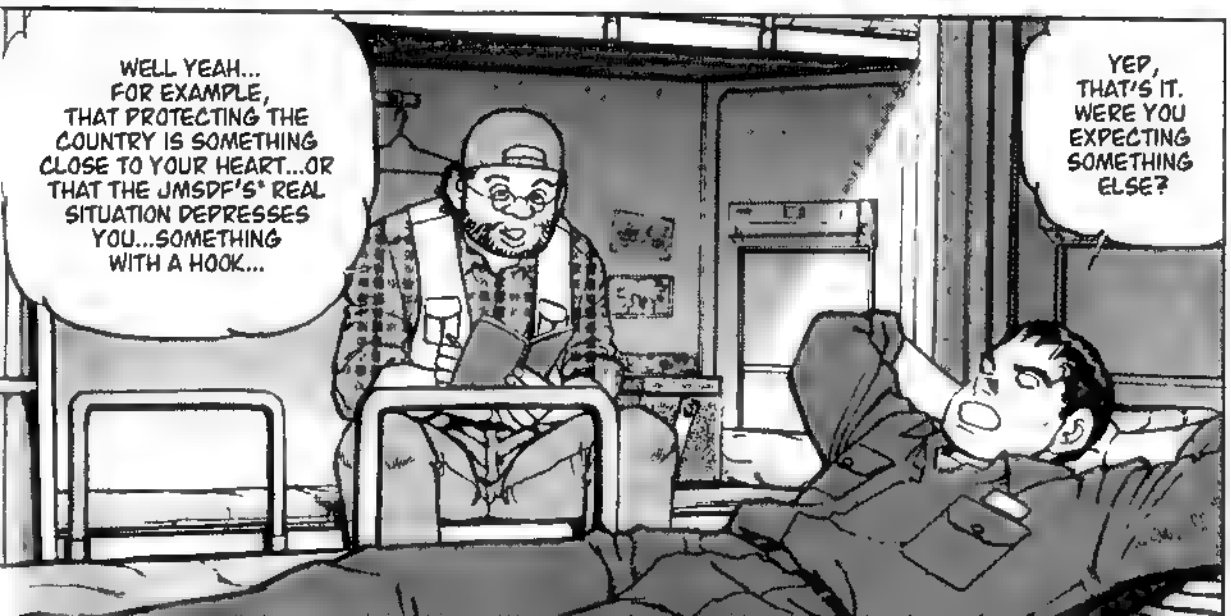
"I WANT TO MAKE LOVE WITH YOU!!"
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.
WHAT'S THAT COMMANDER?
IT'S SPANISH.
YOU GUYS SHOULD REMEMBER IT TOO.
NAH...THE OTHER PHRASE SEEMS MUCH MORE USEFUL TO ME.
SPANISH DICTIONARY
"IF YOU LAND IN ECUADOR, I'LL FIRE MISSILES..."
DON'T TALK NONSENSE! ISN'T KNOWING THE ENEMY A PART OF STRATEGY?
YOU'RE TAKING PEACE FOR GRANTED.

LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY KUKUCHI! I WON'T TOLERATE ANY CRITICISM OF THE CAPTAIN!
BECAUSE IT AFFECTS TROOP MORALE!
FLASH


I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SNAPPING A PICTURE OF YOU OFFICERS IN THIS FAMILIAL SETTING.
!!

LEMME FINISH EATING!!!
COMMANDER KADOMATSU, I'D REALLY LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU.
GOT SOME TIME YOU COULD SPARE ME?
HUH? THAT'S IT...?
MY OLD MAN WAS IN THE NAVY, AND BY DINT OF HEARING ABOUT IT, I BECAME FASCINATED...
...AND I ENTERED THE DEFENCE FORCES...

*JMSDF: JAPAN MARINE SELF-DEFENCE FORCE


WELL YEAH... FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PROTECTING THE COUNTRY IS SOMETHING CLOSE TO YOUR HEART...OR THAT THE JMSDF'S* REAL SITUATION DEPRESSES YOU...SOMETHING WITH A HOOK...
YEP, THAT'S IT. WERE YOU EXPECTING SOMETHING ELSE?

...
...IS WHAT CONCERNS THE SHIP...
THE ONLY THING I KNOW ABOUT...
IN THAT CASE, WHAT'D YOU SAY TO THIS? WE'RE SENDING TROOPS ON AN EXERCISE, BUT IF THEY HAD TO GO TO THE FRONT...
...DO YOU THINK THEY'D KNOW HOW TO FIGHT?
THE SAME GOES FOR US... WE'VE TRAINED GOOD AND HARD TO GET THE HANG OF THE EQUIPMENT...
...NONE OF US HAS EVER PARTICIPATED IN AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS, DEADLY ASSAULT, AND NONE OF US WANTS TO.
MR. KATAGIRI... HAVE YOU EVER KILLED SOMEONE BEFORE?
HUH?! NO...!

*XO (EXECUTIVE OFFICER): THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND ABOARD A NAVY VESSEL.

FOURTH DAY AT SEA
SH
H
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H
CAPTAIN! A MESSAGE FROM THE METEOROLOGIST

IT WASN'T ANNOUNCED IN THE MONTHLY FORECASTS BUT...
LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM NORTHWEST OF THE MIDWAY ISLANDS.
WARN EVERYONE ABOARD, INCLUDING THOSE NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED.
WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH A RIDE..
96.5 KPA*, WINDS OF 40 KM/H! AND GETTING STRONGER!
*KPA. KILOPASCAL
MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF 4 KM FROM THE OTHER SHIPS, AND REMAIN IN PERMANENT CONTACT WITH THEM!
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN!!!
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN! EVERYONE WILL BE READY!

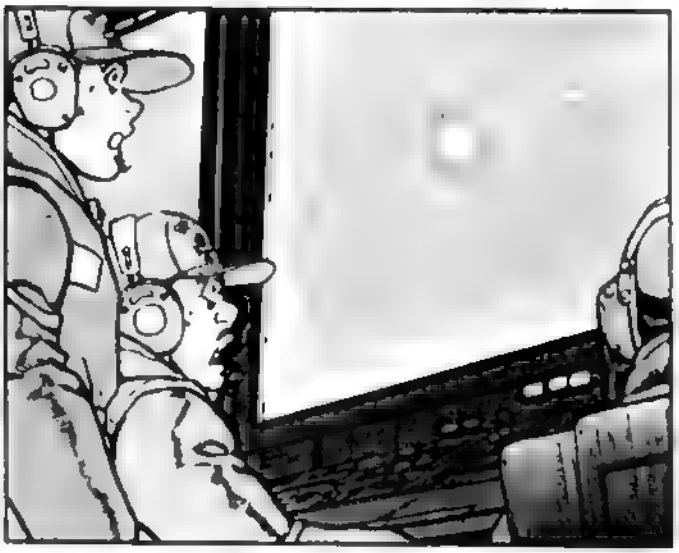
WE'RE FACING A STORM BEFORE ENEMY MISSLES?!
THIS WASN'T PART OF THE PROGRAM!
TUUUU
TUUU
TAC
TAC
TAC
TAC
IT'S FOR REAL
IT'S NO LONGER A DRILL

DDH MURASAME
102
...I'VE SAILED, AND...
35 YEARS... AND TWO MONTHS...
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN CLOUDS LIKE THAT...

FOUTCH
CLANG
AHHH!!
CLANG
CLANG
SHIT! MY FILM!!!
CLAC
CLAC
CLAC
HMMPH
WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF STEALTH, A SHIP EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES LIKE THIS ONE IS, SHOULD BE ABLE TO EASILY WEATHER A STORM!!!

!

BUT...
THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!!!



...DISA-PPEARED?
THEY'VE ...

CIC to bridge! We're no longer getting a signal from OPS-28*. We've lost the other ships!!
!
*OPS-28: Main Radar

WIDEN THE SEARCH PERIMETER!
THE RADAR'S NOT WORKING?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

CAN'T ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH THE HARUKA!!!
!
WE'VE LOST ALL CONTACTS! TOTAL RADIO SILENCE!
NO RESPONSE FROM THE YUKINAMI OR THE AMAG!!!
THERE ARE STILL FIVE MINUTES, THE HARUKA WAS 4 KM AHEAD OF US
WHAT ABOUT THE SATELLITE LINK?!
XO

IT'S NOT A MALFUNCTION.
OK, WE'RE NO LONGER GETTING ANY RESPONSE FROM THE OTHER SHIPS
CHECK THE TRACKING ANTENNA!!!
OK, WE NO LONGER HAVE COORDINATES ON THE SATELLITE'S ORBIT!!!
WHAT THE BLOODY HELL HAPPENED?!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY'VE ALL DISAPPEARED...

CLANG

I WANT A REPORT ON THE DAMAGES RECORDED IN EACH SECTOR OF THE SHIP!
WHAT WAS THAT...?!
LIGHTENING?!

THE DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE SHIP ARE ALL OPERATIONAL.
THE ELECTRONIC AND HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS, THE ELECTRONIC CALCULATION DEVICES--ALL FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.
?!
AH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THEY SANK THOUGH.
LET'S DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO LOCATE THE OTHER VESSELS...
WHAT'S THAT?
XO

HUH... WE'RE ON THE COAST OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

IN THE MIDDLE OF JUNE.

CAPTAIN...

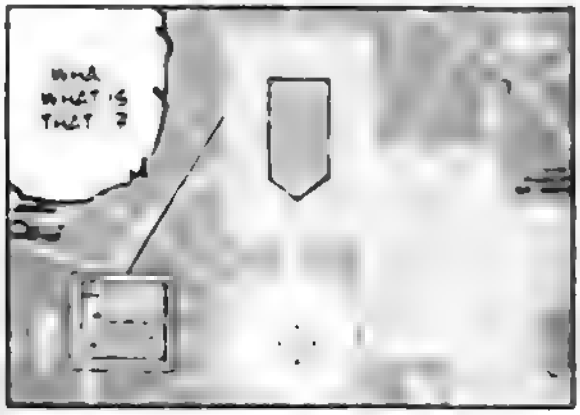
IT'S...?!

IT'S SNOW!!!

IT'S COLD.

AH!

NUMEROUS UNKNOWN SHIPS ARE OCCUPYING THE PERIMETER! MORE THAN 40 IN TOTAL!!
WE'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLEET!


WHA... WHAT IS THAT ?

VERIFYING ON AMERICAN MILITARY FREQUENCIES.

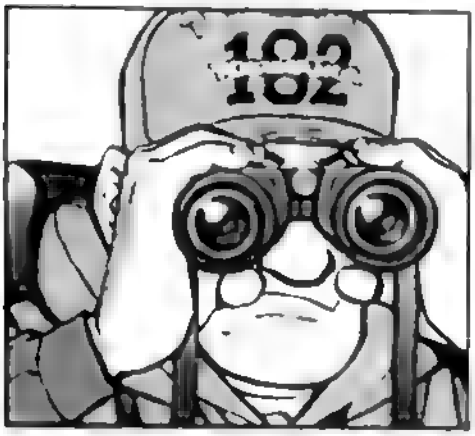
MAYBE IT'S THE AMERICAN FLEET WHO LEFT PEARL HARBOR EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.

VERIFY IT!

No response, and no reaction from IFF* either.

VESSEL APPROACHING DEAD AHEAD!
DISTANCE-- 500 M!!!

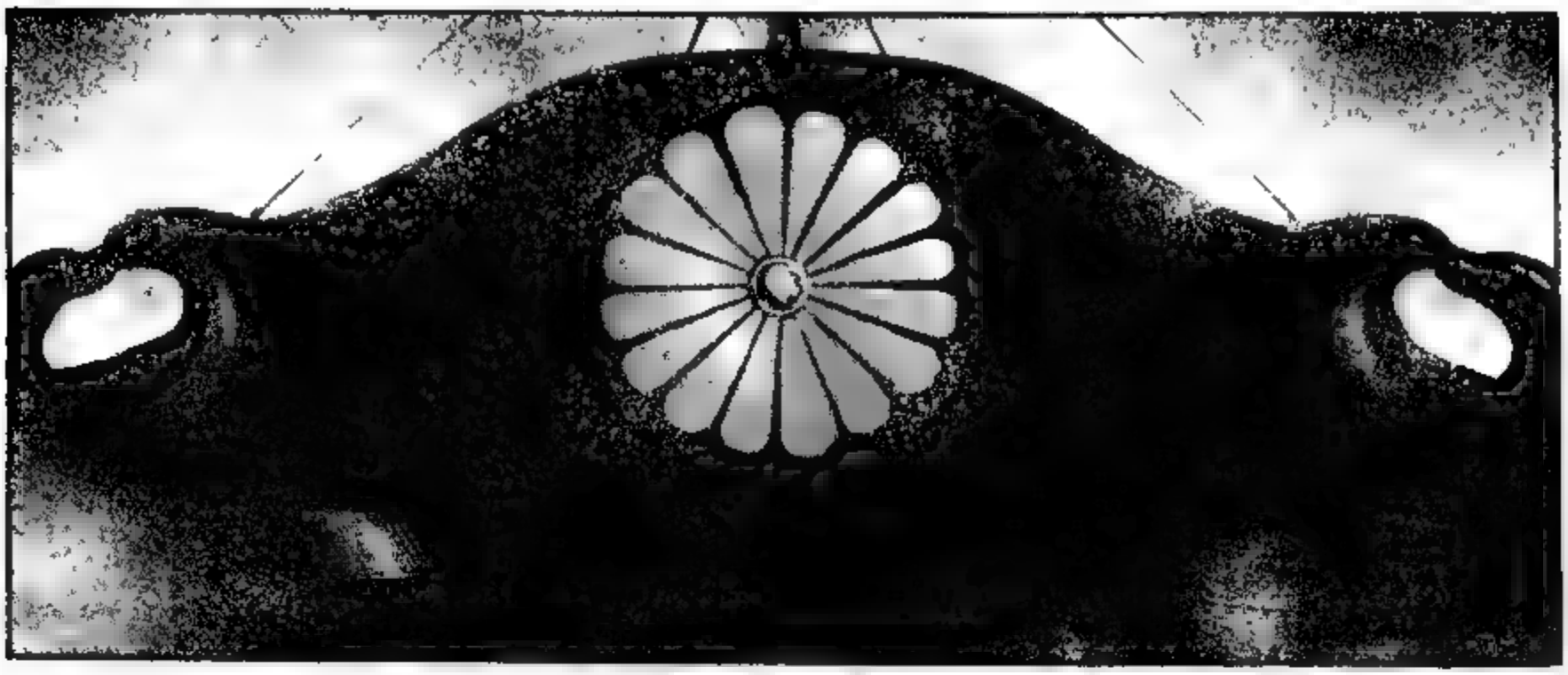
BIP


102

It's a warship.

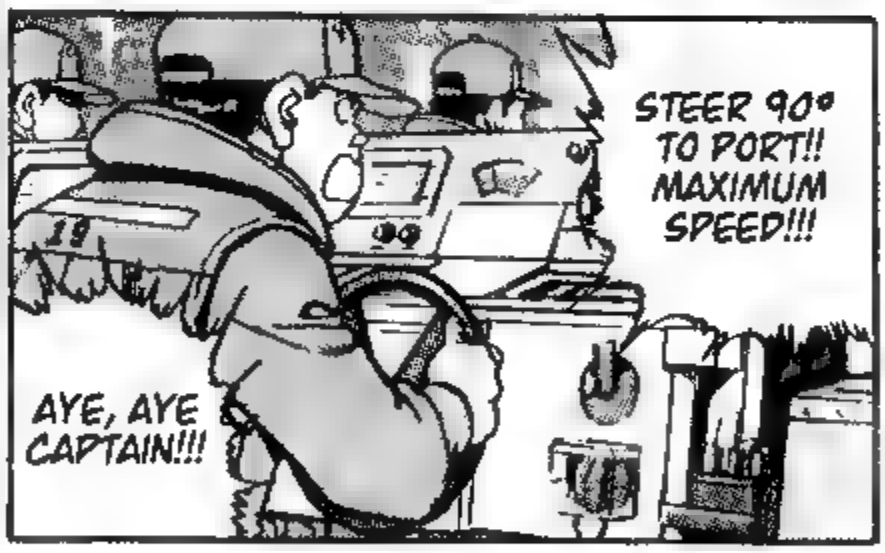
102

OH! LOOK! IT'S A "NEW JERSEY" OR AN "IOWA"!
GET SERIOUS! THERE'S NO LONGER AN "IOWA" IN SERVICE! FAR LESS IN THE PACIFIC.
WHAT IS IT THEN?!



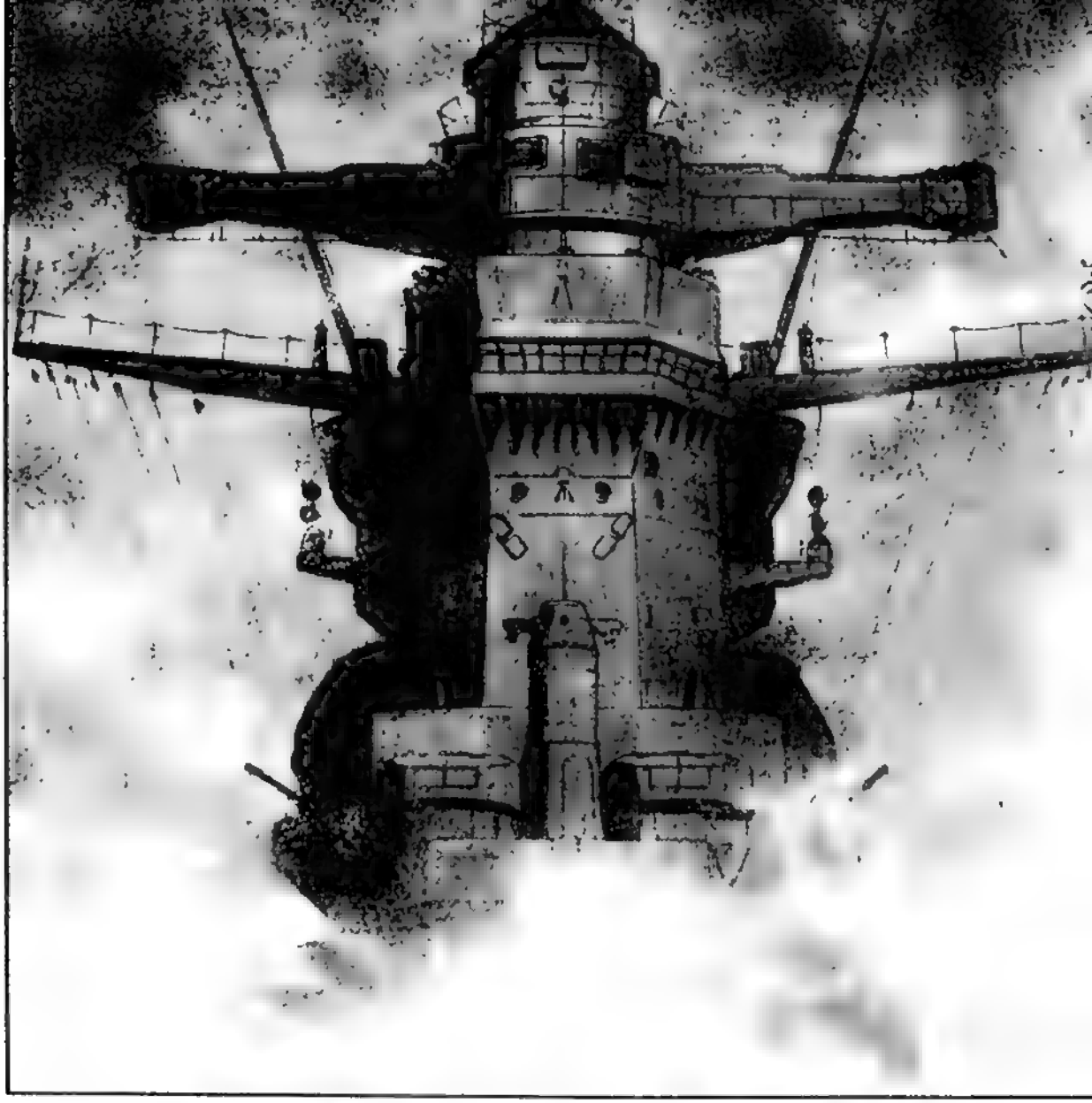
CAPTAIN... THAT'S...!!

STEER 90° TO PORT!!!
LET'S GO PEOPLE!!!

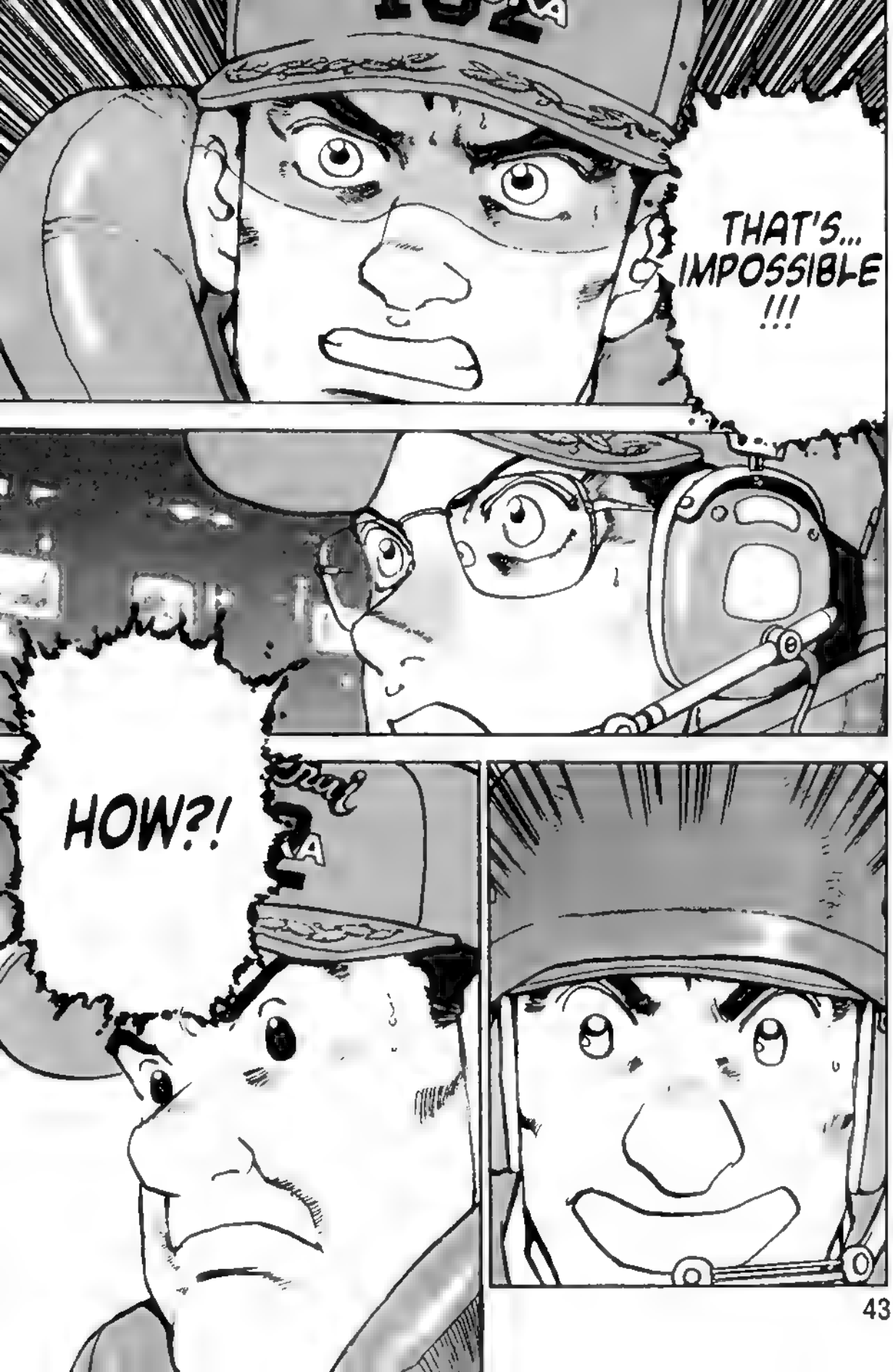

STEER 90° TO PORT!! MAXIMUM SPEED!!!
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN!!!

EITHER I'M GOING CRAZY...OR...
MY EYES...

MIRA



YOKOSUKA
102
...
YAMATO?!
THE BATTLE-SHIP...
WAKE 1/END


THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE !!!
HOW?!

WAKE 2
MIRAI - TO THE WEST

FINALLY...THE UNIDENTIFIED VESSEL IS SENDING US A LIG--
SIGNAL!
THE YAMATO...

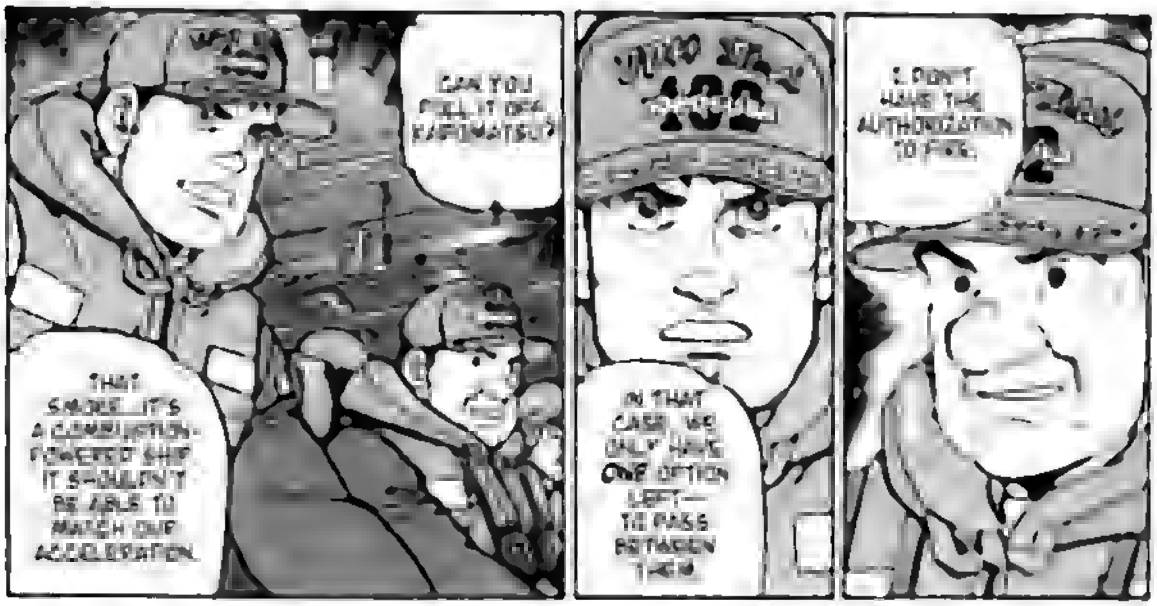
RECEIVING A LIGHT SIGNAL FROM OPPOSING VESSEL!!
"ANNOUNCE YOUR SHIP'S COLORS AND STOP THE ENGINES."
IT'S ASKING US TO STOP?

DO WE RESPOND?
ROGER!!!
LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT THE SITUATION... WE'LL PERFORM AN ESCAPE MANEUVER. IT'LL WORK OUT.
FACING A SHIP THAT SENDS US NO RADIO SIGNAL, IT ISN'T NECESSARY.
AYE, AYE! MAXIMUM COMBAT SPEED!!!
STEER 90° TO PORT IN RELATION TO THE OPPOSING VESSEL. WE'RE MAINTAINING COURSE.
MAXIMUM COMBAT SPEED!!!

FSEHUUU
182
BAM
MDF!
MDF!
MDF!
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT FLEET COME FROM?!
AH!

AND THAT BIG-ASSED BATTLESHIP?!
36
BIP
BIP
BIP
It's like they're trying to cut us off!
WHAT THE...?!
CIC TO BRIDGE! TWO VESSELS!!!
PORTSIDE AND STARBOARD!! DISTANCE-- 500 M!!!
BIP
BIP
THERE!!

ZAAT


CAN YOU HIT IT, KAPITAN?
THAT SMOKE... IT'S A COMBUSTION-POWERED SHIP. IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MATCH OUR ACCELERATION.
IN THAT CASE, WE ONLY HAVE ONE OPTION LEFT— TO PASS BETWEEN THEM.
I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORIZATION TO FIRE.

ZAAA

STEER 10° TO STAR-BOARD!
WE'LL PULL A FEINT AND FORCE OUR WAY THROUGH!!!
STEER 10° TO STARBOARD!
ZHAA
DDH
KONGOSU
ALRIGHT!!!
THE WAY'S CLEAR!!!
THE VESSEL ON THE RIGHT IS CUTTING STARBOARD !!!
DISTANCE-- 300 M!!!

ROSER!!!
MAXIMUM SPEED!! WE'RE PASSING THROUGH THE MIDDLE
STRAIGHTEN THE RUDDER!!
SHUUUU

We're pulling away from the circle of unknown ships. Distance: 30,000 m.
ZAT
Air, surface, sub-surface zones--all clear.
THAT ARE TOUGH TO EXPLAIN HAVE OCCURRED IN OUR SITUATION.
SNOW IN JUNE...
SATELLITE LINKS AND LOSS OF CONTACT WITH THE OTHER SHIPS...
IT OFF, THE APPARITION OF THAT WAR FLEET...

TOUGH TO EXPLAIN?! YOU SAW IT! JUST LIKE WE ALL DID! IT WAS THE YAMATO!
A MAST WITH A FLAG BEARING A RISING SUN AND 460 MM MAIN CANNONS!
PERSONALLY, I'VE NEVER SEEN GHOST SHIPS THAT SEND A SIGNAL ASKING FOR ENGINES TO BE STOPPED.
YOU SAW THEM SAME AS US, COMMANDER-- THE CREW ABOARD FOLLOWED OUR ACCELERATION WITH THEIR EYES.
IN THAT CASE, OGURI...
...IT'S A GHOST SHIP.
THE IMPERIAL NAVY BATTLESHIP, THE YAMATO, SANK OFF THE COAST OF OKINAWA IN 1945.
AND I'VE NEVER HEARD TALK OF IT BEING REASSEMBLED...
XO

IN THAT CASE, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT THEY DIDN'T ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT?
THEY SHOULD'VE AT LEAST SENT US A MESSAGE...
I KNOW! IT'S HOLLYWOOD! THEY MUST'VE INVESTED A FORTUNE AND ARE SHOOTING A FILM!
AT ANY RATE, THIS ISN'T FUNNY
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, I THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN MENTIONED ON TV
OR MAYBE IT'S SOME BILLIONAIRE WHO HAD IT RE-CONSTRUCTED.
IN OUR SECTION, THERE'S CHIEF PETTY OFFICER YANAGI
HE'S AN OLD WAR BUFF
IS THERE NO ONE WHO'S FAMILIAR WITH THE IMPERIAL NAVY?
WELL...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
AND THAT DEPLOYMENT-- IT'S THE ONE FROM THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY.
IT WAS THE COMBINED FLEET OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY.
YES.
THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY!!!
13

BEHIND THE YAMATO, THERE WAS THE NAGATO AND THE MUTSU. THE FUSO, THE YAMASHIRO, THE ISE AND THE HYUGA FOLLOWED.
IT'S THE FRONTLINE, THE MAIN FORCES' FORMATION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FLEET ADMIRAL, ISOROKU YAMAMOTO.
AND THAT, WAS THE MAIN FLEET THAT SUPPORTED THE TROOPS LEAD BY VICE-ADMIRAL NAGUMO DURING THE OFFENSIVE ON THE ISLAND OF MIDWAY.
...THE TROOPS' SHIPS COMMANDED BY VICE-ADMIRAL NAGUMO WERE EN ROUTE TO MIDWAY, READYING THEMSELVES TO DELIVER A TERRIBLE BATTLE.
AT THE TIME, 500 MILES FROM OUR POSITION, IN THE WATERS TO THE SOUTHWEST...

I KNOW ALL THAT ALREADY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
MEANWHILE, THE SITUATION TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE--UNDER THE ASSAULT OF THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, THE LOSSES WERE VERY HEAVY AND THE VICE-ADMIRAL WAS DEFEATED. IT'S A BATTLE THAT MARKS A TURNING POINT IN THE PACIFIC WAR BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN.
102
THE PROBLEM IS KNOWING WHAT SHIPS THAT EXISTED MORE THAN 60 YEARS AGO, ARE DOING HERE!!

BROOHAHA
BROOHAHA
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE...
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THE CONFLICT IN ECUADOR.
SEEING HOW THE SITUATION'S CHANGED...
...IT'D BE BEST TO TURN RIGHT AROUND...
!!
I REMIND YOU THAT WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF THREE SHIPS.
YESSIR, COMMANDER!!
WE CAN'T JUST GO HOME, ABANDONING THEM.
THE FIRST OF OUR MISSIONS IS TO FIND THEM AND MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T IN DANGER.

IF WHAT CHIEF PETTY OFFICER YANAGI SAID IS TRUE...
...THAT MEANS IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY WARSHIPS APPEARED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC...
THAT'D BE SWELL, BUT...
...IF IT WAS THE OPPOSITE?
JUNE 4TH...YOU REMEMBER THE MOON FROM LAST NIGHT?
IT WAS A FULL MOON, WASN'T IT?
THE OPPOSITE?
WELL YEAH, OBVIOUSLY! A TOTALLY ROUND MOON!
WHAT'S *THAT* GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?!
WOULD THE MOON CHANGE TO THAT EXTENT IN A *SINGLE* DAY?

!!
A HALF-MOON?!

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S NOT THE FLEET THAT APPEARED...
...IT'S WE WHO'VE FOUND OURSELVES IN THE WATERS OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY.

...
CAPTAIN
WHAT'RE YOUR ORDERS?
ONCE IN PLACE, WE'LL DEFINITELY BE STUCK...
I CAN'T RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY SUPERIORS...
SINCE WE'VE COME THIS FAR, LET'S SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END, OK?

182
UNDERSTOOD CAPTAIN!

WHILE STILL MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE OF AIR AND SUB-SURFACE ZONES...

OUR SHIP WILL MAINTAIN ITS ORIGINAL COURSE FOR PEARL HARBOR, WHERE WE'LL ENTER THE AMERICAN NAVAL PORT!
182

ROGER!!!
...IS TIGHTENED!!!

WAKE 2/ END

WAKE 3
MIDWAY

ESTIMATED FLYOVER TIME BETWEEN 0610...

...AND 0620 HOURS!!

Roger!

ANALYZE THOSE COORDINATES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

Incoming bogey!! 143°, speed--100 km/h!

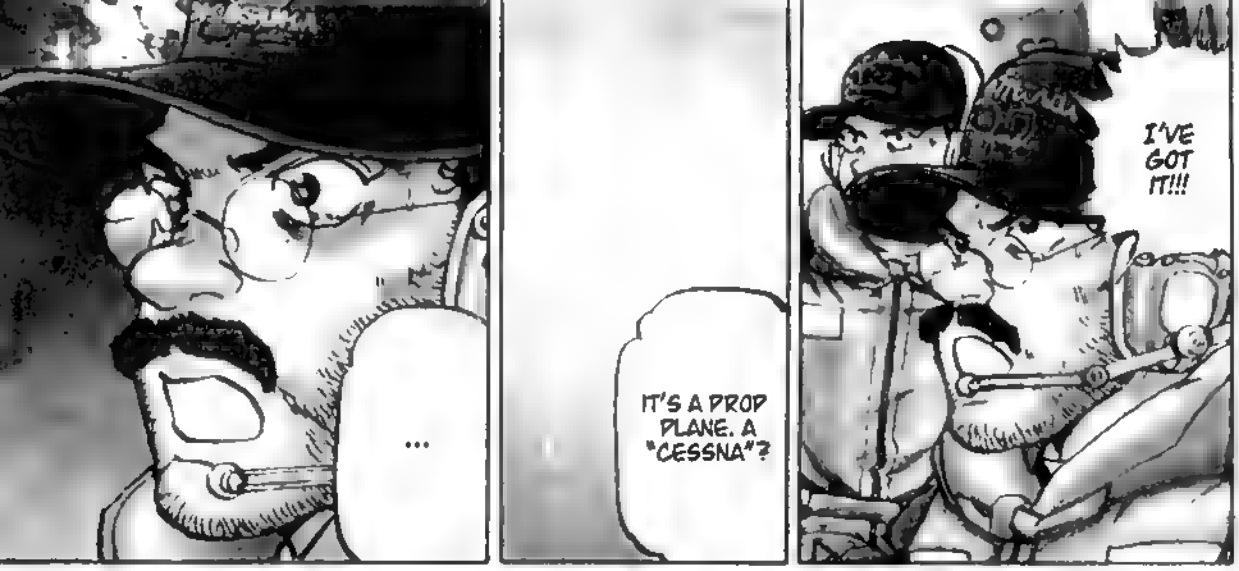
Descending, 200 altitude.

YOUR ORDERS, CAPTAIN...?

ROGER!!!

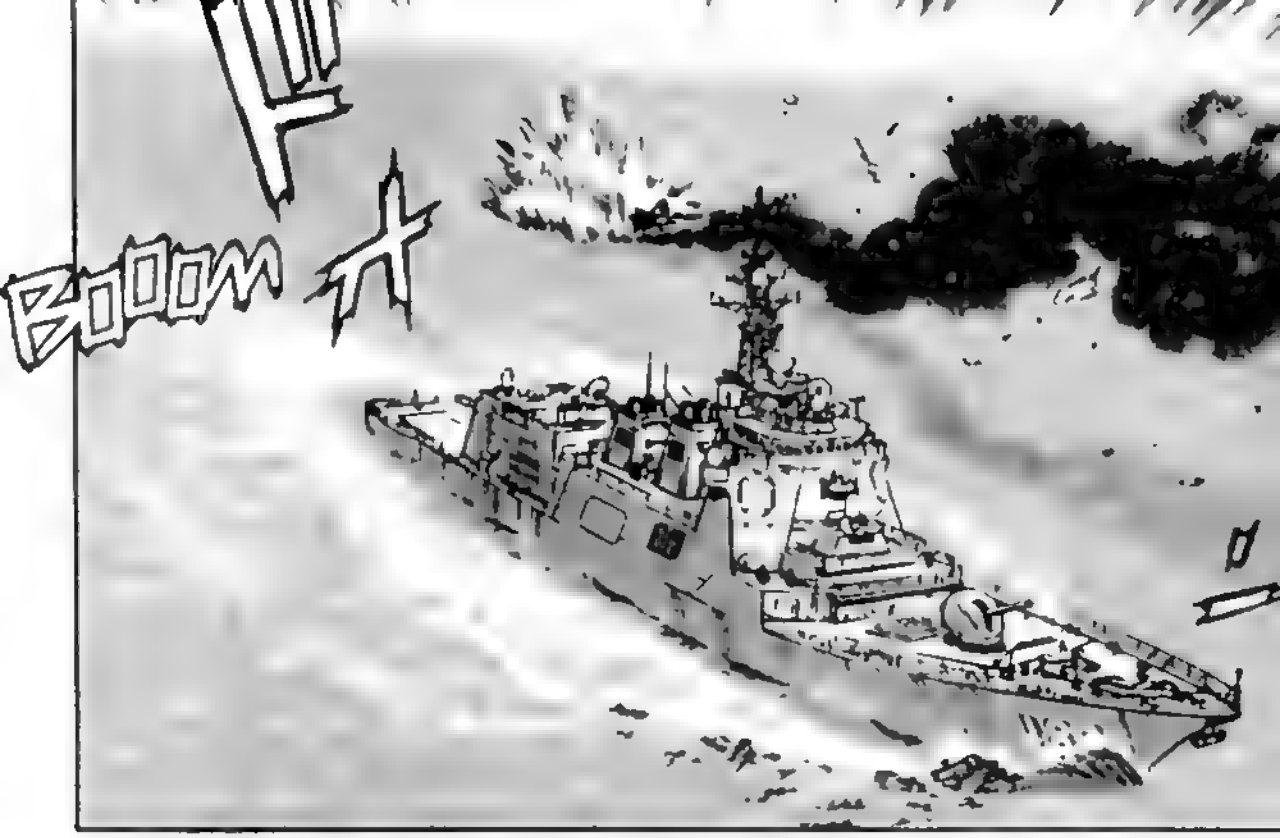
WE'LL WAIT AND OBSERVE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

100 KM/H...IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE EITHER A MISSILE OR A JET.



"THE DOUGLAS SBD "DAUNTLESS" WAS THE STANDARD DIVE-BOMBER USED BY THE U.S. NAVY'S AIR FLEET IN THE PACIFIC DURING WWII. THE AIRCRAFT ARE CREDITED WITH DESTROYING 18 JAPANESE WARSHIPS INCLUDING A BATTLESHIP AND SIX CARRIERS

!
BOOOM
CLAC
AAAH!!!
CLAC


BOOOM

CHECK THE WATER'S SURFACE!!!
SEE IF THERE ARE SURVIVORS!!!

BOGEY DOWN!!!
DISTANCE-- 38, 10° OFF OUR PORTSIDE STERN!!!

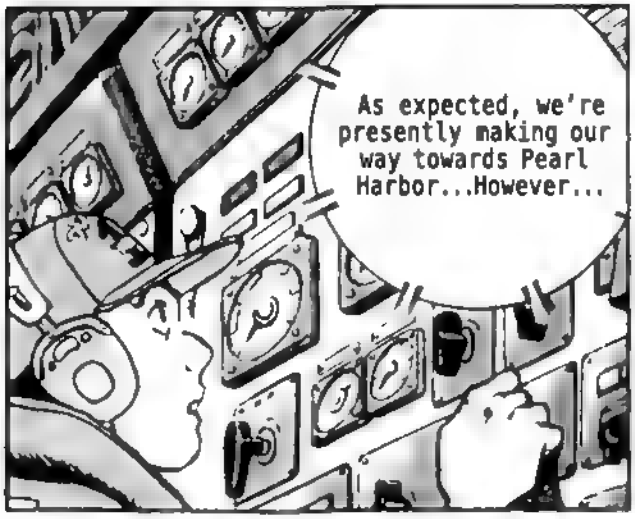
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT OIL SLICKS ON THE SURFACE!!!

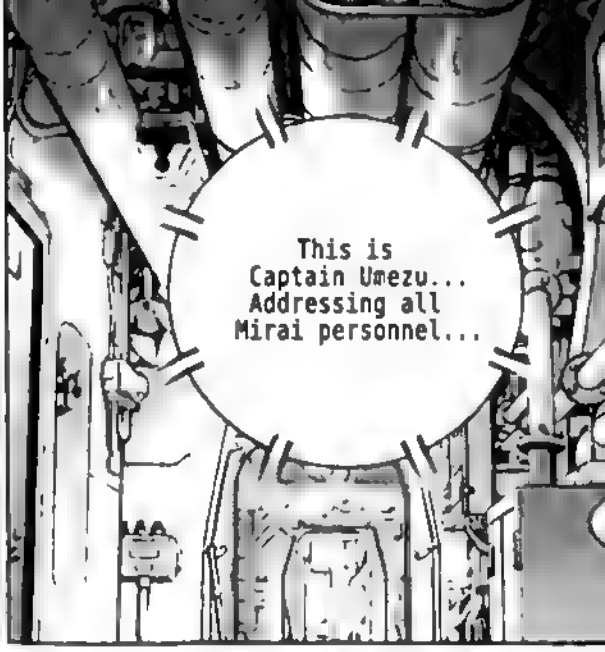
OH! IT SANK IN NO TIME!!!

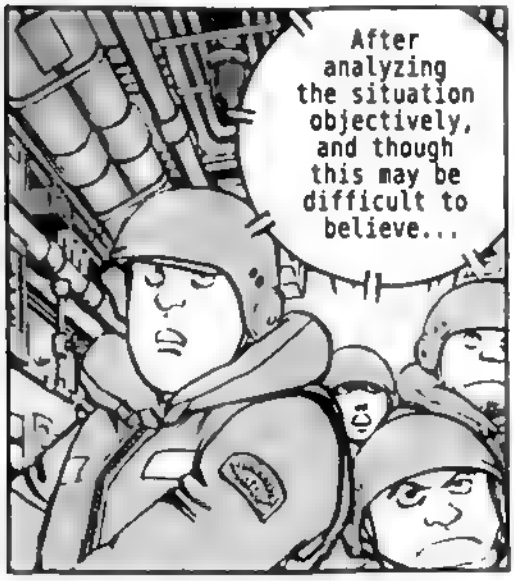
IT'S NOT A DREAM
JUST LIKE THE YAMATO OR THE MUTSU...
?
IT'S... IT'S NOT A DREAM, LIEUTENANT.
OF COURSE... LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD...
WHAT?
SECOND SECTION! CHIEF PETTY OFFICER YANAGI WAS JUST HIT BY A FRAGMENT FROM THE PLANE! I'M REQUESTING A REPLACEMENT!
DUMBASS! HURRY UP AND GET YOURSELF LOOKED AT!
182

YOKOSUKA
102
BY ALL EVIDENCE, THE WATERS BEFORE US...
...ARE THE THEATER OF AN ARMED BATTLE!
AAAH!!!
THE RADIO SIGNAL'S CONTENTS SEEM TO BE IN CODE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DECIPHER IT!!!
DETECTING APPROXIMATELY 100 AIRCRAFT IN THIS AIRSPACE!!!
CIC TO BRIDGE! DISTANCE--200 KM, SURFACE 90° 20 SHIPS HAVE APPEARED!!!
THEY'RE FOLLOWING A CIRCULAR PATTERN WHILE COMMUNICATING VIA RADIO!!

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ENGAGE-MENT!!!
COM-MANDER
YESSIR?
CONNECT THE INTERNAL RADIO LINE
ROGER!!!


As expected, we're presently making our way towards Pearl Harbor...However...


This is Captain Umezu... Addressing all Mirai personnel...

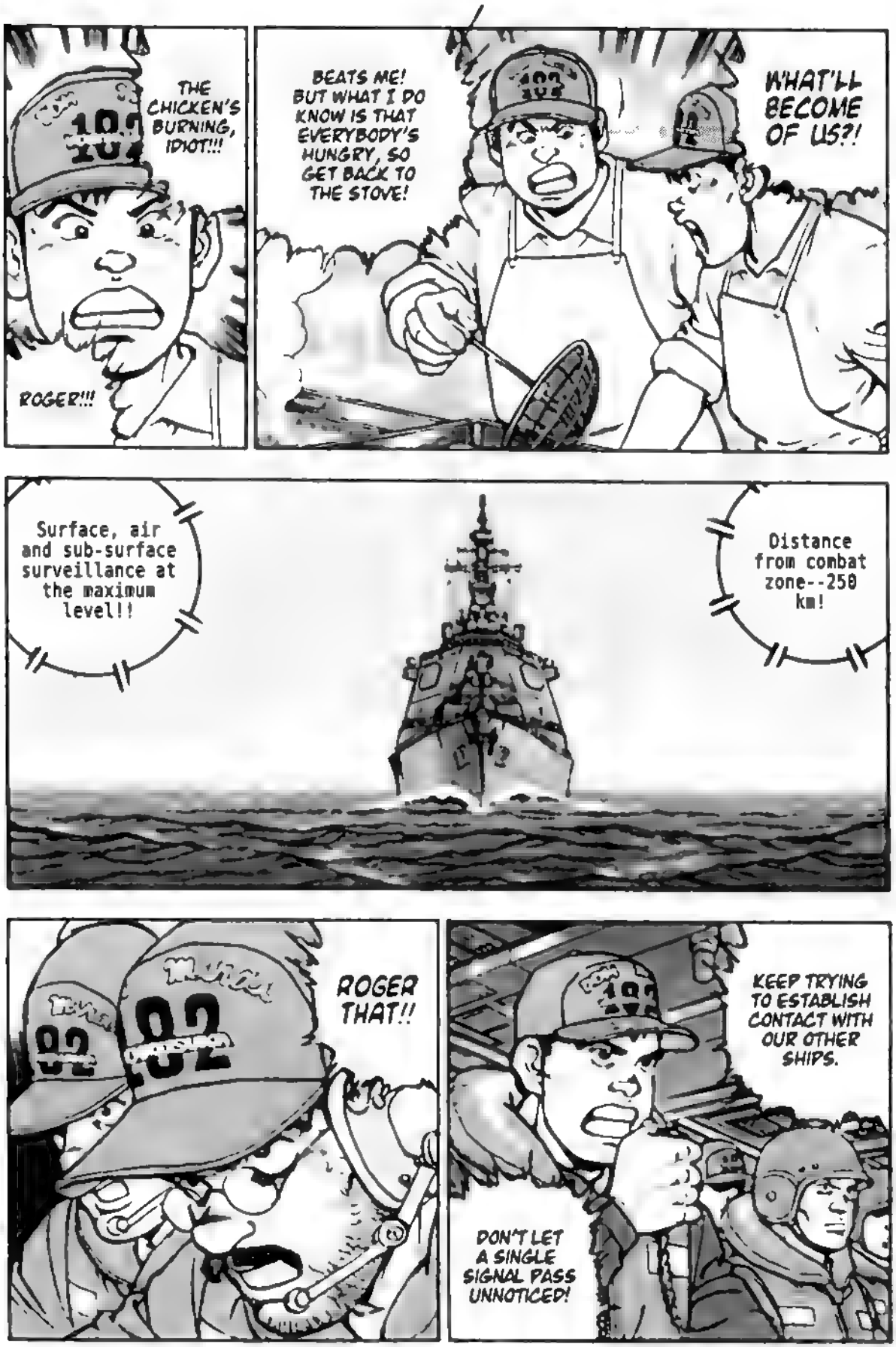

After analyzing the situation objectively, and though this may be difficult to believe...

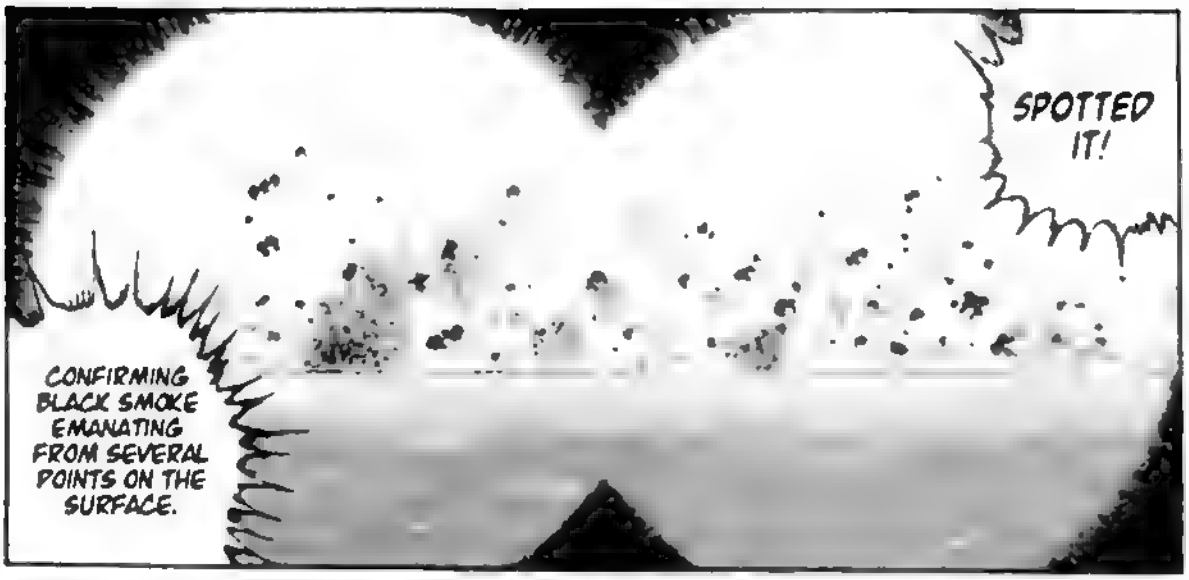
...Since last night, we've faced a number of inexplicable phenomena.

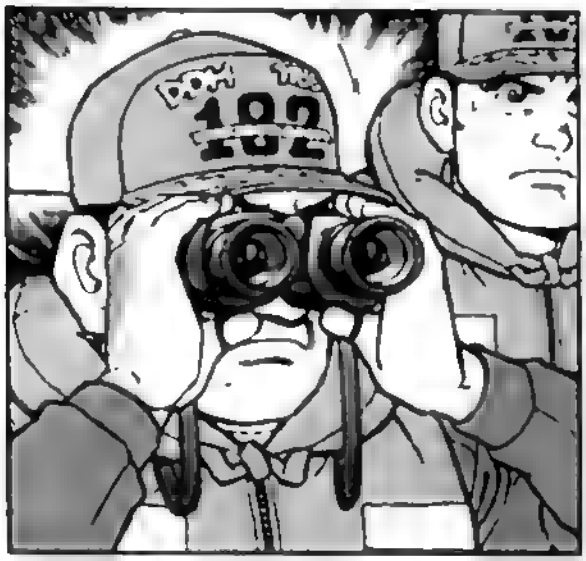
...RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY... JUNE 5TH 1942!
...WE THINK THAT OUR SHIP HAS LANDED...

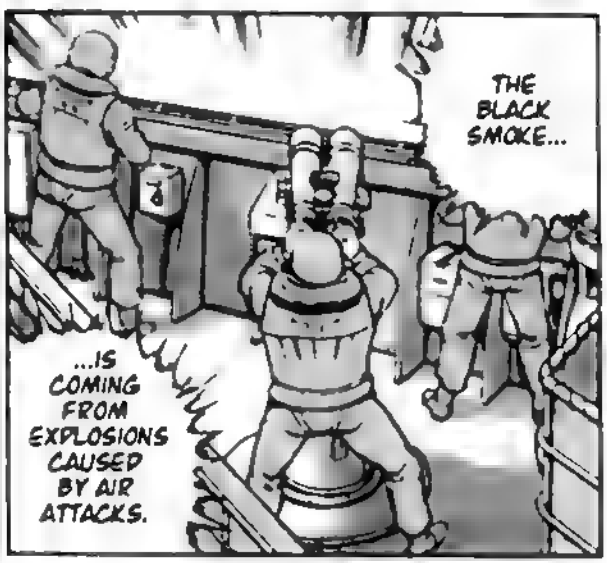
...Is to locate and rejoin the three ships we've lost, but...
...It seems clear that during the course of this mission, we'll be entering areas of armed naval and aerial conflict.
The Mirai's first mission...
I'M COUNTING ON PROFESSIONALISM IN THE EXECUTION OF EACH OF YOUR ROLES! OUT!
WHILE AWAITING ORDERS, I ASK FOR CALM.
102
YOKOSUKA

DON'T TALK NONSENSE!
EH! OH!
WE...WE'VE MADE A LEAP THROUGH TIME?!
...THE YAMATO!
CLAC
CLAC
I KNEW IT...
IT REALLY WAS...
BUT WHAT'RE WE DOING...
...60 YEARS IN THE PAST?!
CHIEF! MIDWAY, 1942...
YEAH, JUNE 5TH...


THE CHICKEN'S BURNING, IDIOT!!!
ROGER!!!
BEATS ME! BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT EVERYBODY'S HUNGRY, SO GET BACK TO THE STOVE!
WHAT'LL BECOME OF US?!
Surface, air and sub-surface surveillance at the maximum level!!
Distance from combat zone--250 km!
ROGER THAT!!
KEEP TRYING TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH OUR OTHER SHIPS.
DON'T LET A SINGLE SIGNAL PASS UNNOTICED!

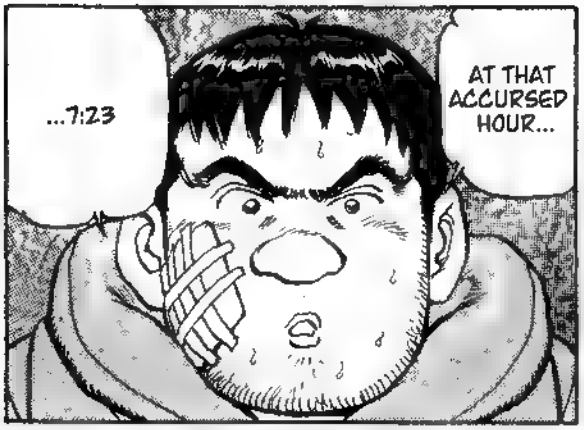


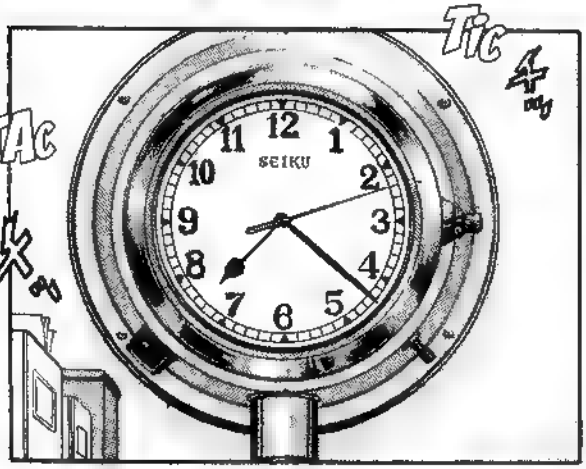




THE FLEET OF EXPERIENCED ZEROS* WHO COUNTER-ATTACKED AGAINST THE AMERICAN BOMBERS COMING FROM MIDWAY, FOUGHT FURIOUSLY.

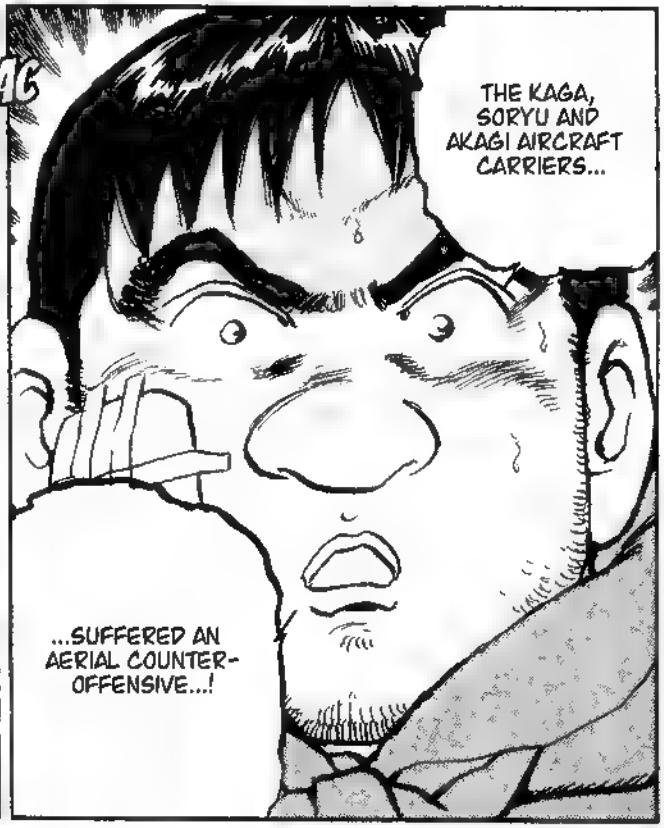
*THE MITSUBISHI A6M "ZERO" WAS A LIGHT-WEIGHT CARRIER-BASED FIGHTER USED BY THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY FROM 1940-1944. THE AIRCRAFT'S EXCELLENT MANEUVERABILITY COMBINED WITH IT'S LONG RANGE MADE IT ONE OF THE BEST FIGHTERS OF ITS ERA AND EARNED IT A LEGENDARY REPUTATION


...7:23
AT THAT ACCURSED HOUR...


TIC
TAC
SEIKU

BUT WHEN THEY DOVE, APPROACHING THE WATER'S SURFACE, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT...
...THE "DAUNTLESSES", THE DIVING BOMBERS, APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE FROM A HIGHER ALTITUDE...

SEIKU
CLAC


THE KAGA, SORYU AND AKAGI AIRCRAFT CARRIERS...
...SUFFERED AN AERIAL COUNTER-OFFENSIVE...!

CLAC
SHUUU

BOOOM

7:25--
THREE BOMBS HIT THE SORYU...!

7:24--
THE KAGA IS HIT IN ITS TURN BY FOUR OTHERS...

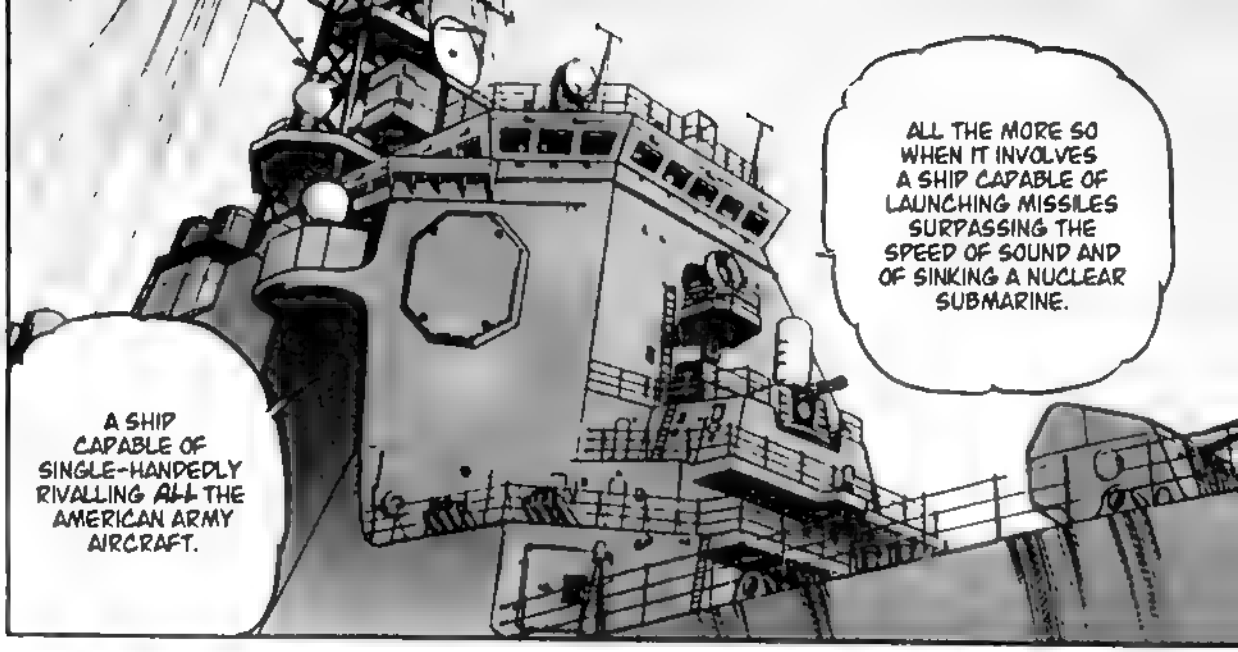
7:23--
THE AKAGI IS HIT BY THREE BOMBS...

REGISTERING SUCCESSIVE ATTACK WAVES ON THE THREE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS!!!
CRITICAL LOSS OF SPEED FROM THE THREE SHIPS!

The offensives are continuing! The explosions seem to be following one after another!!

THE STATE OF EACH SHIP

102
YOU MEAN ENTER THE BATTLE?!
GO ?
OR ARE WE GOING TO DECIDE TO GO?
WHAT'RE WE DOING? WE JUST GOING TO CONTENT OURSELVES WITH WATCHING THE SHOW AND GIVING A RUNNING COMMENTARY?
IN SHOOTING DOWN EVEN A SINGLE PLANE, WE COULD SAVE HUNDREDS OF LIVES!
THOSE ARE JAPANESE OUT THERE DYING! MAYBE OUR PARENTS!
102
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT?
WHEN A BUTTERFLY FLAPS ITS WINGS IN BEIJING, A MONTH LATER, THAT TINY BREEZE COULD BECOME A STORM IN NEW YORK.
IT'S WELL KNOWN-- A SMALL CHANGE CAN HAVE LARGE CONSEQUENCES.


A SHIP CAPABLE OF SINGLE-HANDEDLY RIVALLING ALL THE AMERICAN ARMY AIRCRAFT.
ALL THE MORE SO WHEN IT INVOLVES A SHIP CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING MISSILES SURPASSING THE SPEED OF SOUND AND OF SINKING A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE.

WE REPRESENT A DANGER TO HISTORY!
WE HAVE WEAPONS THAT ARE 60 YEARS AHEAD. DON'T YOU GET IT?!

WE'RE QUITE A LONG WAY FROM A SIMPLE FLAPPING OF BUTTERFLY WINGS.

...WHAT'RE WE DOING HERE?
BUT THEN...

ISN'T IT AN APPEAL? "WHAT'RE WE ABLE TO DO HERE WITH AN ULTRA-MODERN VESSEL LIKE OURS"?
LOOK KIKUCHI! THAT THERE'S WAR!!
INNER
102
102

IT PISSES ME OFF!!!
XO
COM-MANDER KADO-MATSU!!!
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK?!
A STRATEGY CONCEIVED BY THE ARROGANT, THE PRETENTIOUS...
WHEN I THINK OF ALL THOSE DISTINGUISHED PILOTS AND ALL THOSE CREWS LOST...
XO
SO MANY BOATS .. SO MANY WARSHIPS...

YEAH, IT PISSES ME OFF!!!
IT STICKS IN MY CRAW LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE!
XO
...AND TO ENSURE THAT THE SHIPS WE LOST TRACK OF AREN'T IN ANY DANGER.
OUR MISSION IS TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE MIRAI'S 241 PASSENGERS...

IT'S OUR #1 PRIORITY!!!
IS THAT CLEAR? WHATEVER HAPPENS, OUR PRIORITY IS TO BRING THE LOST SHIPS BACK TO BASE

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THE U.S....OR EVEN JAPAN WILL ACCEPT US.
WE'RE ALONE ON THIS PACIFIC OCEAN

102
BRING THEM BACK...?
DOES THE YOKOSUKA BASE EXIST? OR ROPPONGI? OR DREAMLAND?

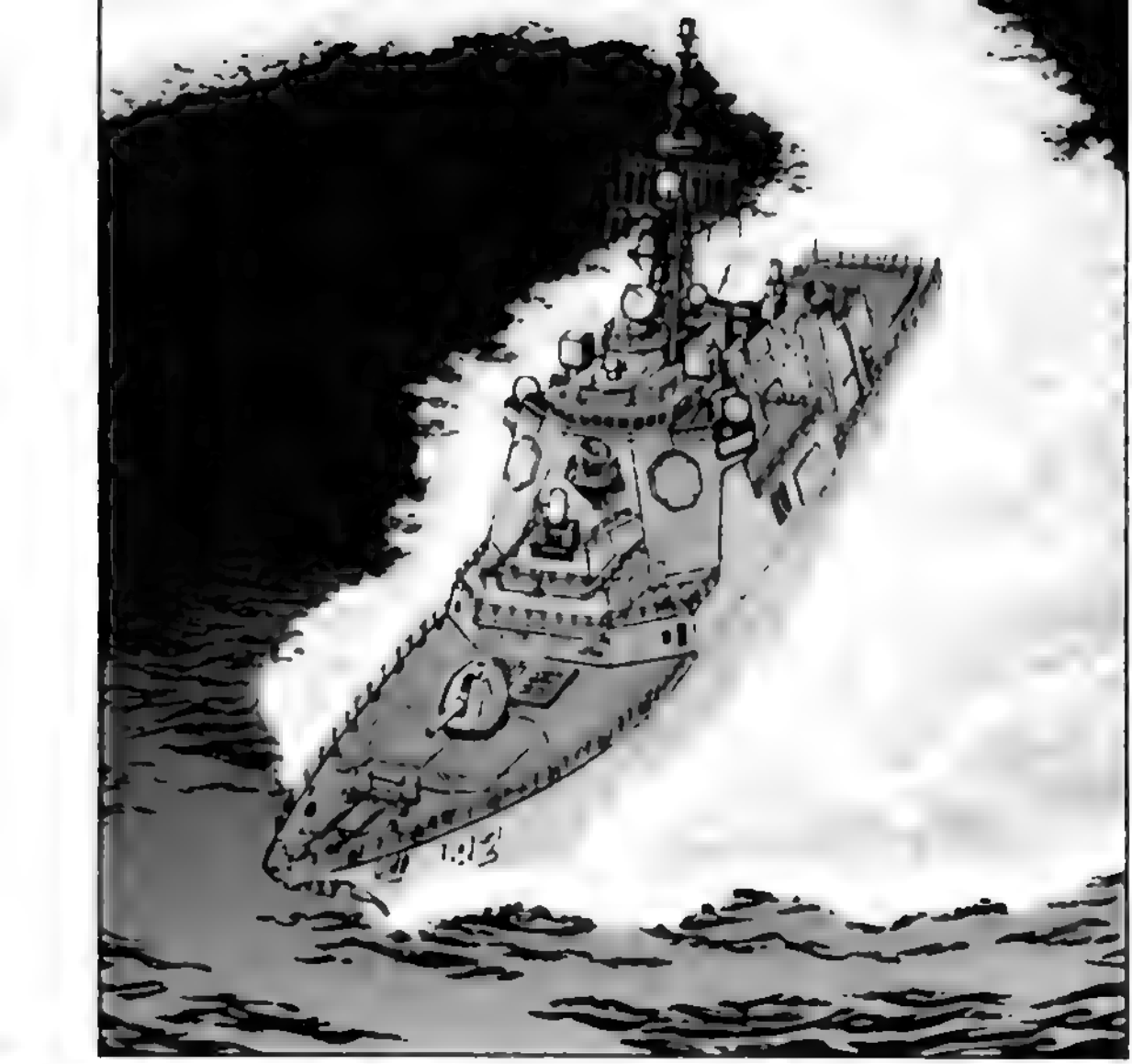
102
WHERE DO WE GO BACK TO?
WE'RE LOST IN SPACE-TIME, RIGHT?

President Franklin D. Roosevelt has just announced victory at the Battle of Midway.
IT'S A SPECIAL BULLETIN WITH AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.
CIC to bridge! We've just picked up a broadcast from Honolulu.
!!

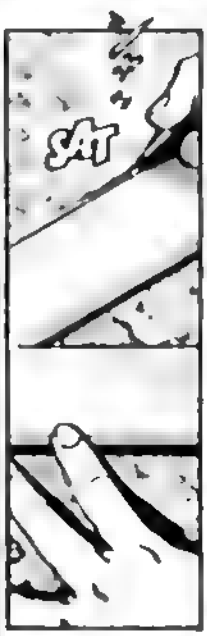
APPARENTLY, THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE WE'LL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME AT PEARL HARBOR...
AS COMMANDER KADOMATSU HAS JUST SAID, OUR PRIORITY IS TO DO THE UTMOST POSSIBLE TO FIND THE OTHER SHIPS, ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE MIRAI'S PERSONNEL, AND RETURN TO THE YOKOSUKA BASE.
THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLIES WILL COME UP
!
WE'LL RETRACE OUR STEPS AND BEGIN OUR SEARCH.
WE DON'T KNOW WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT HAS BECOME OF OF OUR NAVAL BASE, BUT...
WE CAN ASSUME THE PHENOMENON WE'RE EXPERIENCING IS PARTICULAR TO THIS REGION.

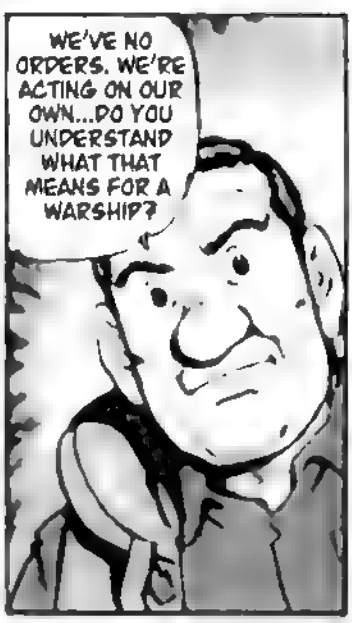
HEAD TOWARDS THE WEST!!!
CHANGE COURSE! COME ABOUT AND...
SINCE WE CAN'T USE OUR SATELLITE LINK TO NAVIGATE, YOU CAN'T RELY ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE GYRO-COMPASS
COM-MANDER HAS-HA'SU...
ROGER!!!
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN!!!

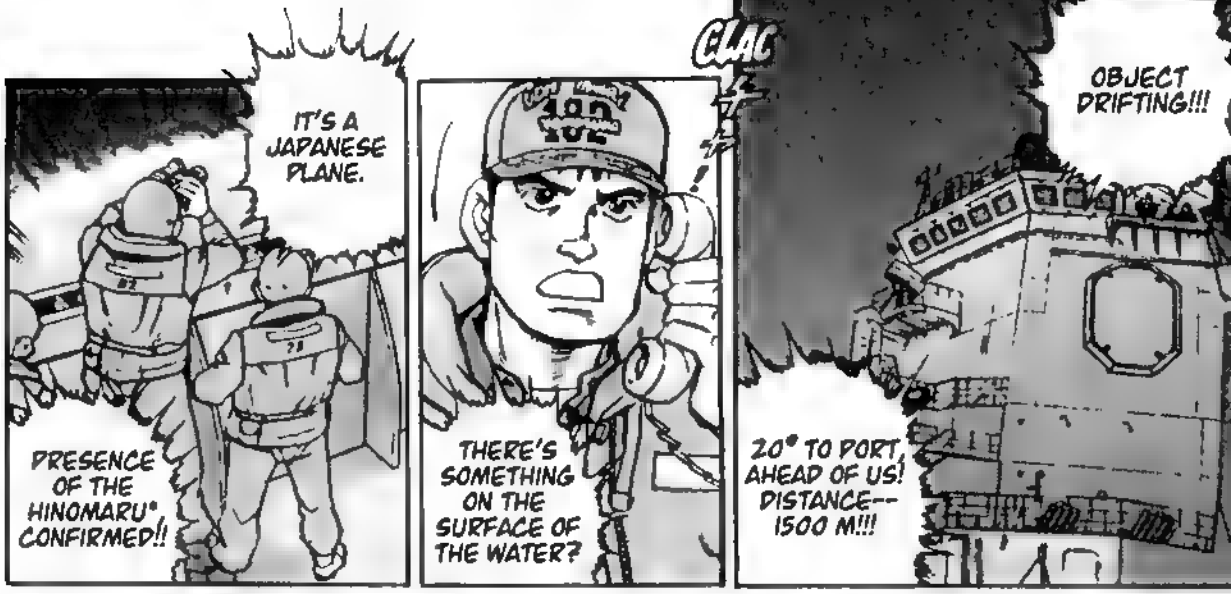
THE TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA'S OFF!!
WE'RE GOING BACK TO YOKOSUKA!!!
ZAT
NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT TO GO AND BE STUCK.
ANYWAY, ALL OF JAPAN HASN'T BEEN SUNK, SO..
YEAH..
WHAT ABOUT IT?
BUT IF WE LAND IN WWII JAPAN...?
102
AAAAA

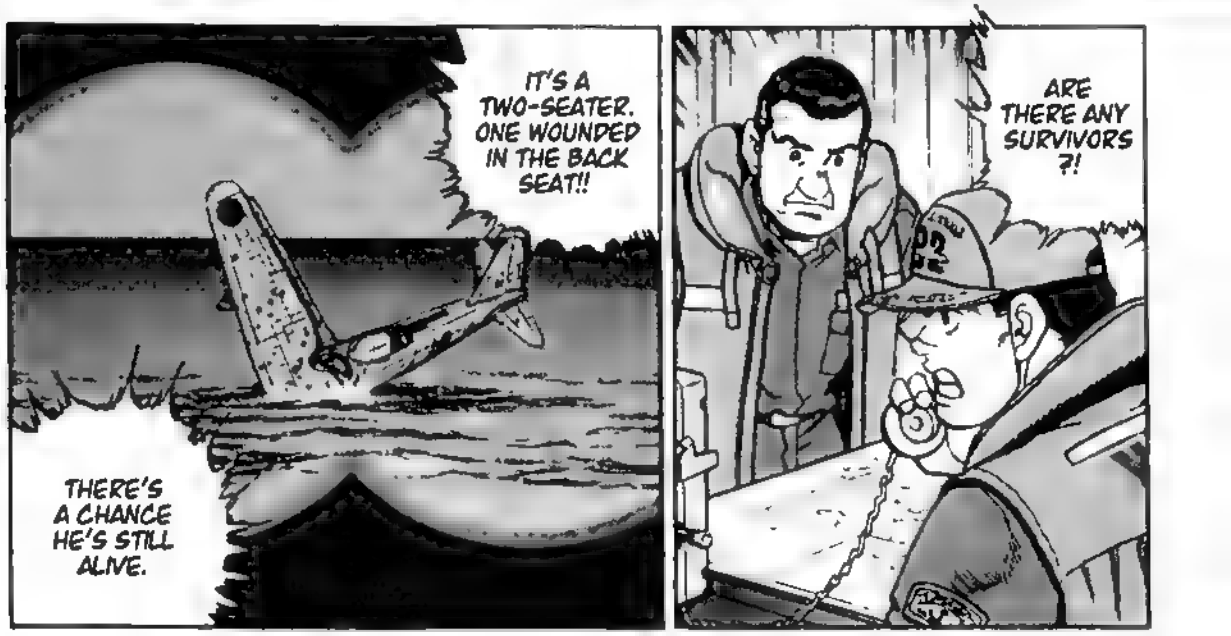


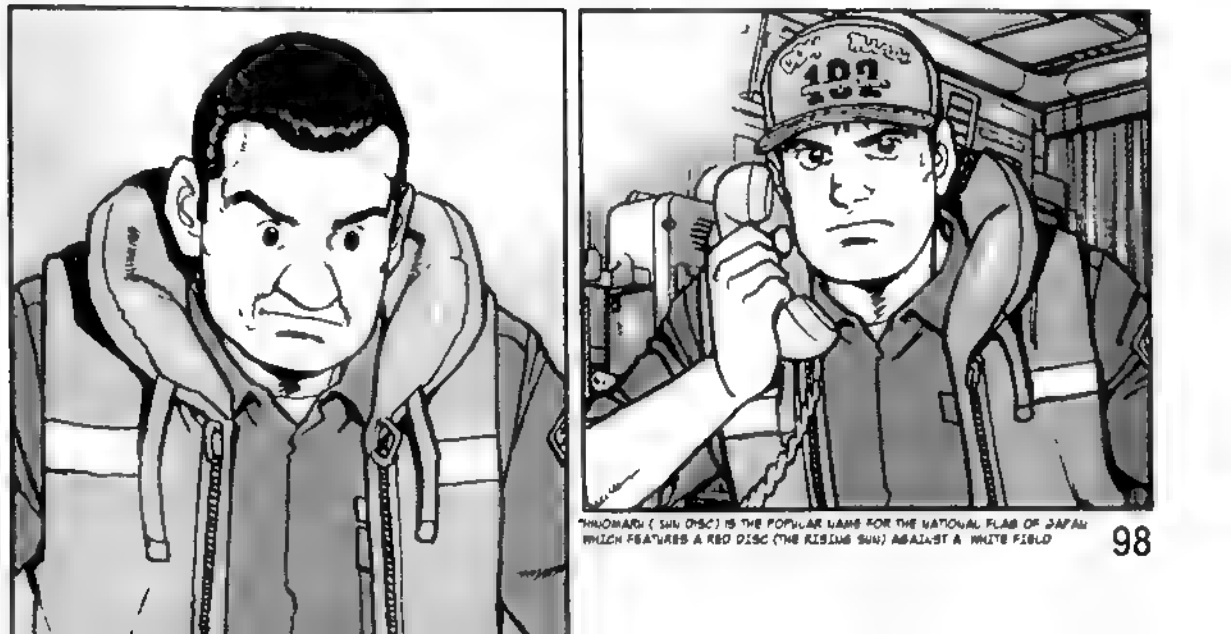
YESS P
IT'S PROBABLY A DIFFICULT NAVIGATION THROUGH BATTLEFIELDS THAT AWAITS US!


SAT


WE'VE NO ORDERS. WE'RE ACTING ON OUR OWN...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR A WARSHIP?


IT'S A JAPANESE PLANE.
PRESENCE OF THE HINOMARU* CONFIRMED!!
THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER?
GLAC
OBJECT DRIFTING!!!
20° TO PORT, AHEAD OF US! DISTANCE-- 1500 M!!!

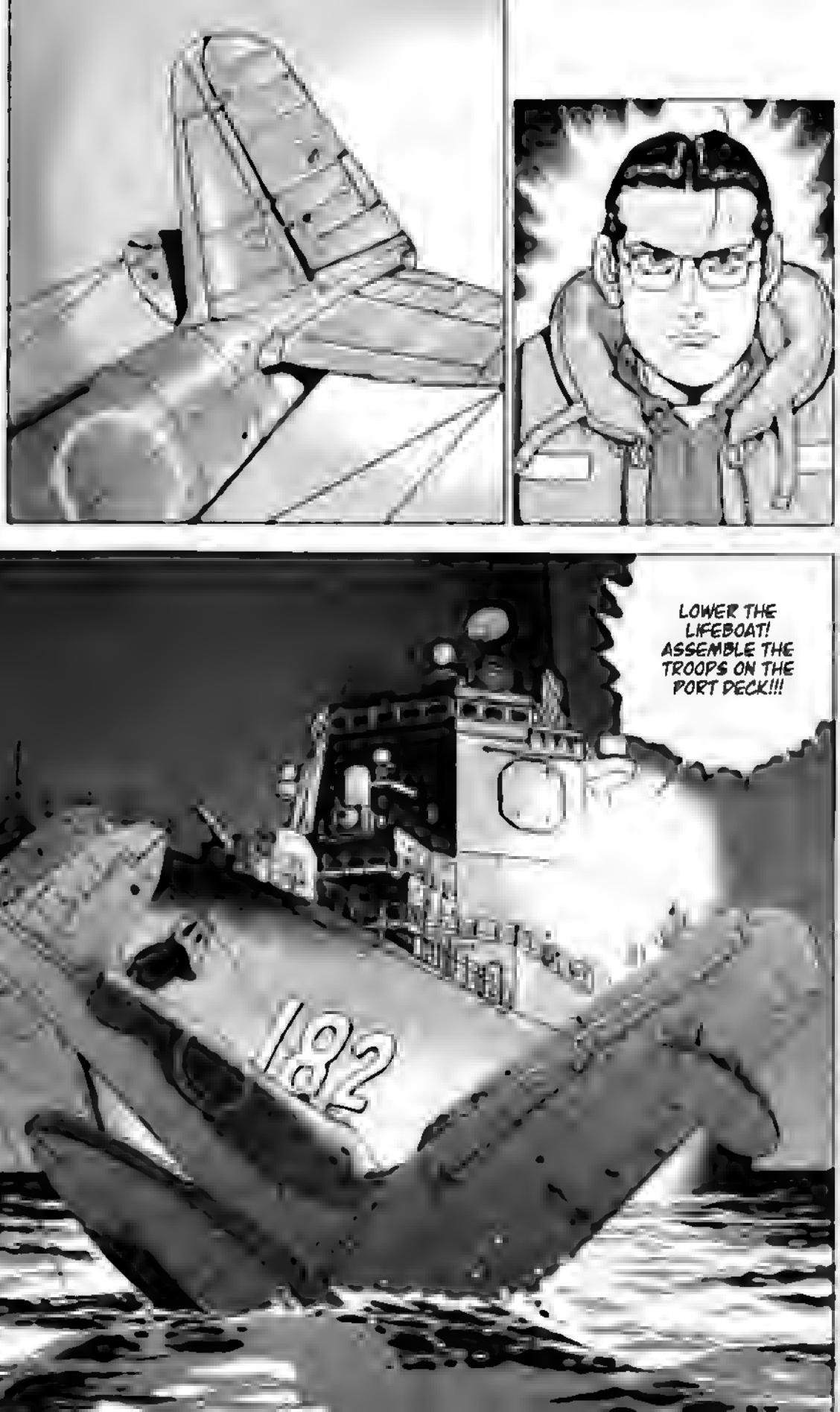


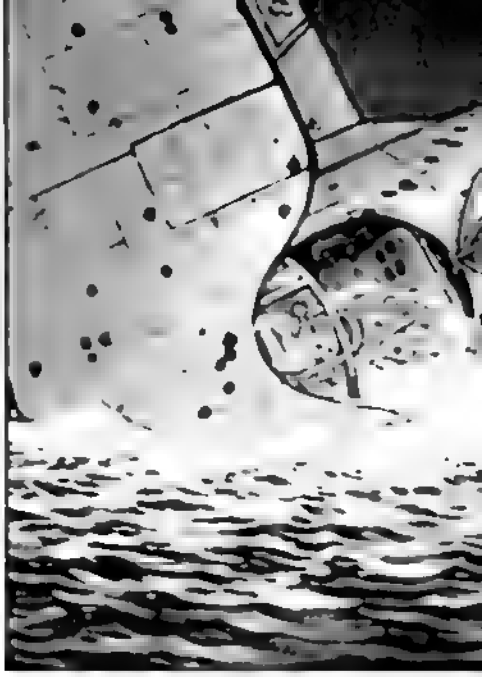


*HINOMARU (SUN DISC) IS THE POPULAR NAME FOR THE NATIONAL FLAG OF JAPAN WHICH FEATURES A RED DISC (THE RISING SUN) AGAINST A WHITE FIELD

CAPTAIN! WE CAN'T IGNORE THIS....
CHECK OUT THE SITUATION...
TURN ON THE SEARCHLIGHTS! PREPARE THE LIFEBOATS!!!
PROGRESS-ING AT CONTROLLED SPEED!!!

AREN'T YOU AFRAID...?
YOU RISK ALTERING THE COURSE OF HISTORY..
WAIT, YOSUKE!
XO
ISN'T IT YOU SHOWING ARROGANCE AND PRETENSION?!
XO


LOWER THE LIFEBOAT! ASSEMBLE THE TROOPS ON THE PORT DECK!!!
182



WAKE 3/ END

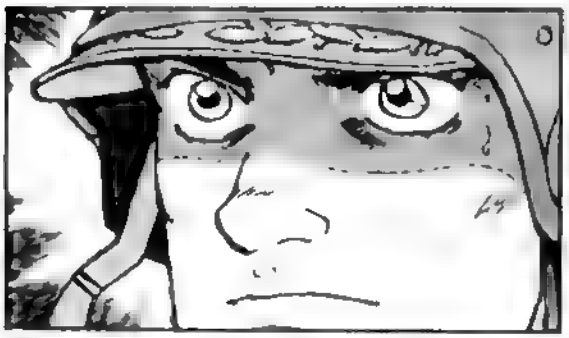
102
PATRICK'S DEAD
102
WILL BE WITHOUT CONSCIOUSNESS
ALL THIS
DO DO DO DO
IT SEEMS IT WAS THE COCKPIT THAT WAS TARGETED.
IT'S RIDDLED WITH BULLETS

!
=GULP=
HE'S DEAD.

LIFEBOAT TO BRIDGE!!!
...IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL.
THE ONE IN BACK IN THE WHITE UNIFORM SEEMS TO HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME FATE, BUT...

IN THE BACKSEAT IS A NAVAL OFFICER IN DRESS UNIFORM. WE'RE GOING TO SHIT CLOSER TO DETERMINE HIS CONDITION.
TWO PASSENGERS ABOARD. DEATH OF THE PLANE'S PILOT CONFIRMED!
WAKE 4
THE SURVIVOR

IT'S SINKING!
AAAH!



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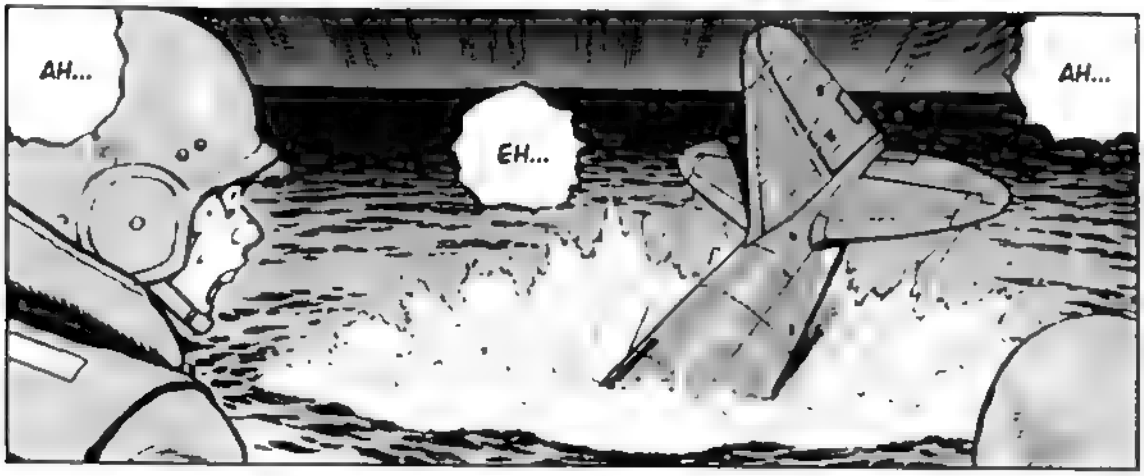
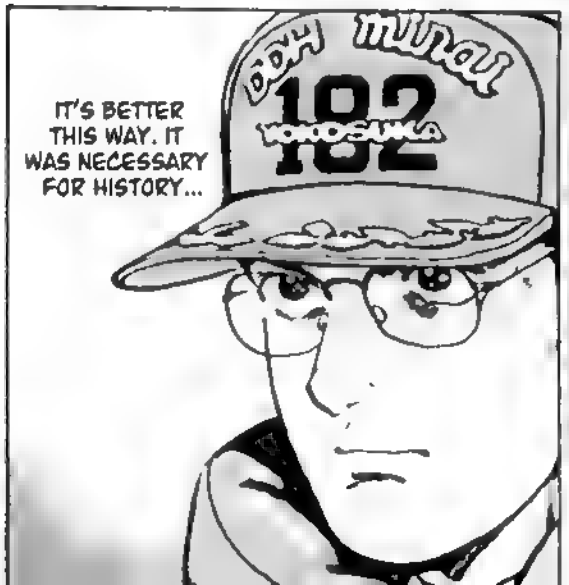

AH...
EH...
AH...


IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HISTORY...
102

THE PLANE'S SINKING. THE WATER MUST'VE INFILTRATED THE WINGS AND FILLED UP THE REMAINING AIR POCKETS.

COM-
MANDER!!!
AH...
SPLASH
...DIVED
IN!!!
THE COM-
MANDER...

PROTECTING LIVES IS EVERYTHING.

PERHAPS THAT'S WHY, DESPITE OUR OVERWHELMING STRENGTH, WE'RE HERE.

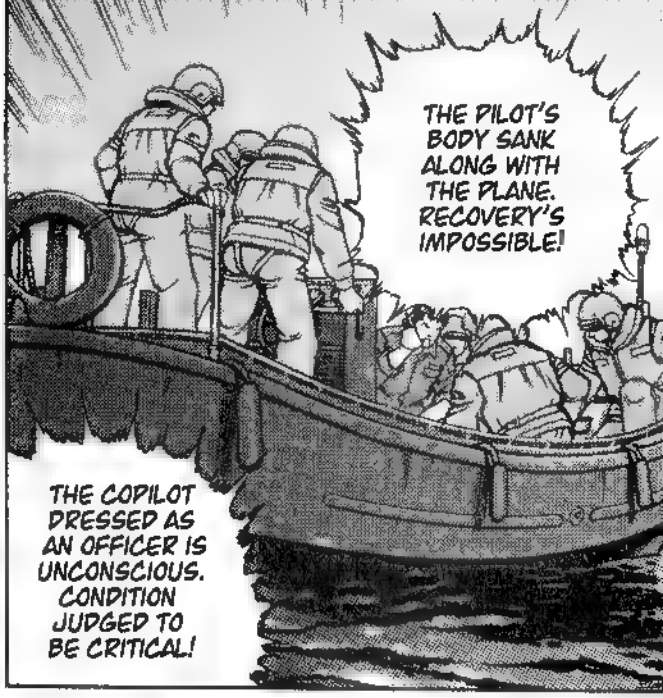
!
DAMN! HIS SABER!!!

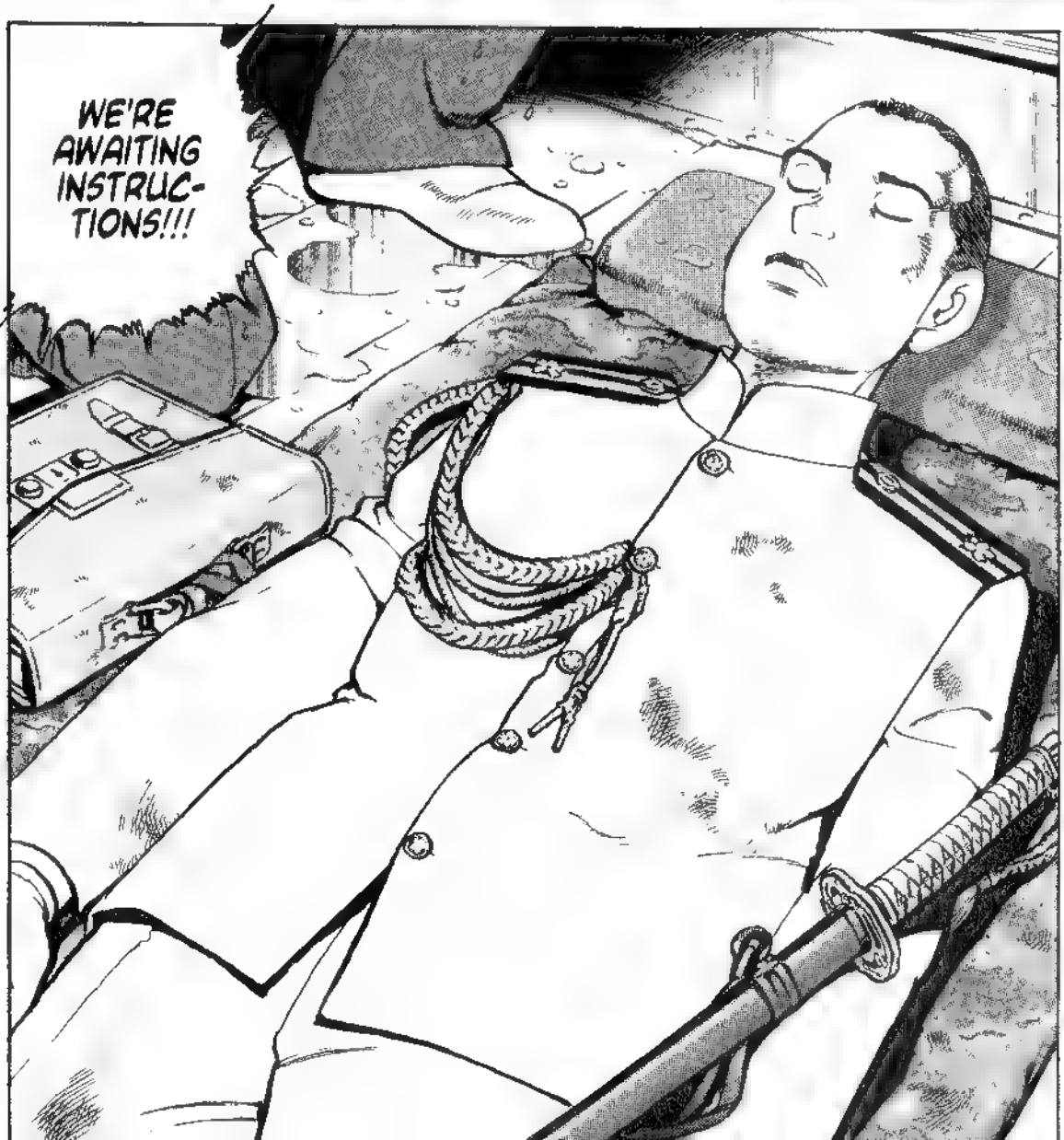
STILL, HE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE PRIORITIES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. IT'S NOT AN ATTITUDE BEFITTING A SUPERIOR OFFICER.
IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME OF HIM. NOT EVEN THE TIME TO REMIND HIM THAT HE'S DIVED ALREADY. THIS'LL MAKE HIS THIRD RESCUE
CHIEF GUNNER

192
192
THAT A JOB BE BUNGLED, RIGHT?
COME, COME! YOU'RE THE LAST ONE TO TOLERATE...

PFFF...
OH!
THE COM-
MANDER...
...DID IT.
HE DID
IT!!!
MPF!
MPF! MPF!
NOTIFY THE
BRIDGE!!!
WE'VE
GOT A
SURVIVOR!!

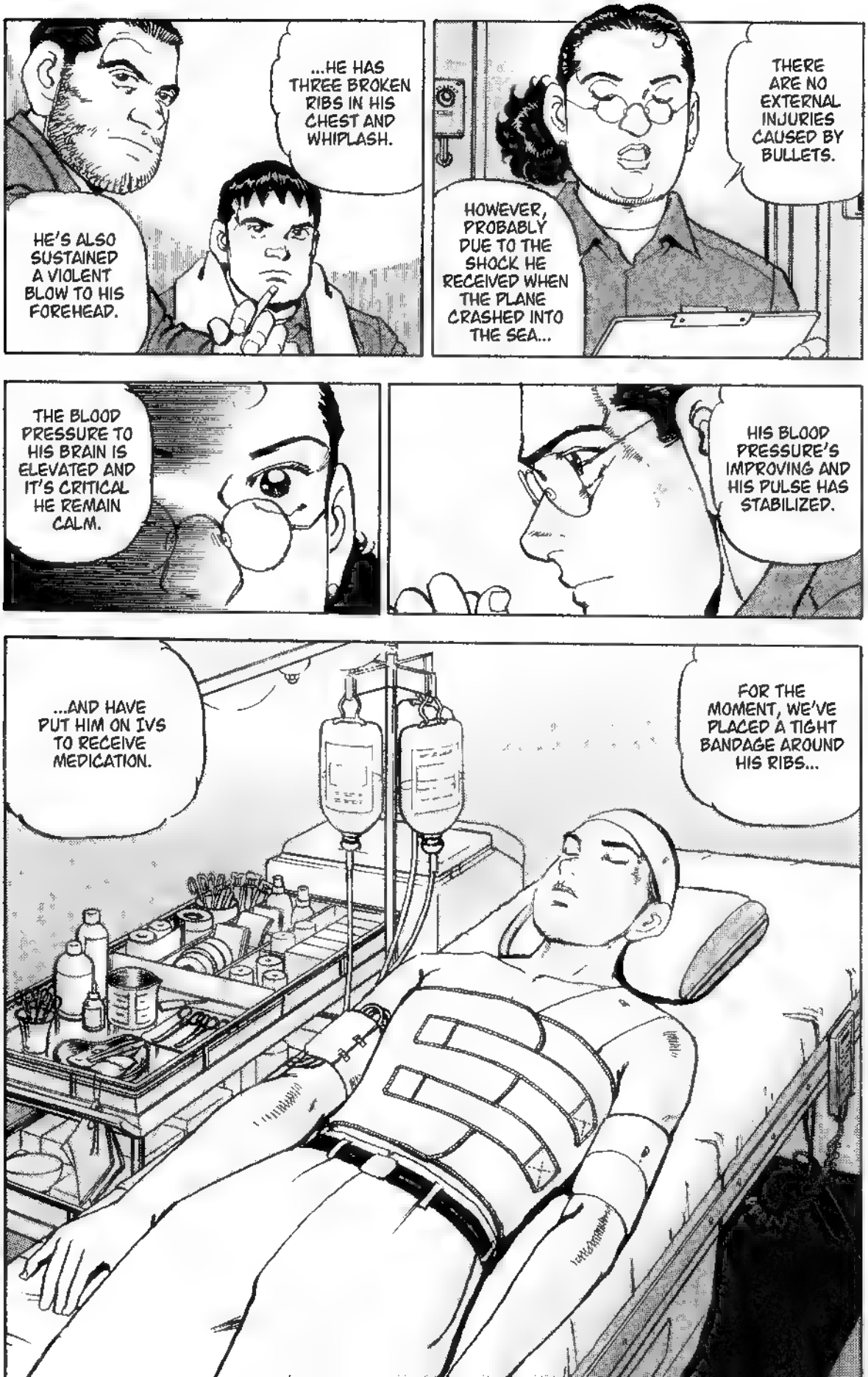
OBJECTS BROUGHT ONBOARD ARE--A SABER AND A LEATHER BAG.
ACCORDING TO THE STRIPES HE'S WEARING, HE SEEMS TO BE A LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.


THE PILOT'S BODY SANK ALONG WITH THE PLANE. RECOVERY'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THE COPILOT DRESSED AS AN OFFICER IS UNCONSCIOUS. CONDITION JUDGED TO BE CRITICAL!


WE'RE AWAITING INSTRUC-TIONS!!!

AH!
ROGER THAT!
CLAC
PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER HIM TREATMENT ONBOARD, GRANTED!
NO...
JUNE 6 2008
OFFSHORE, AT 30°-59' NORTH LATITUDE AND 178°-30' EAST LONGITUDE...

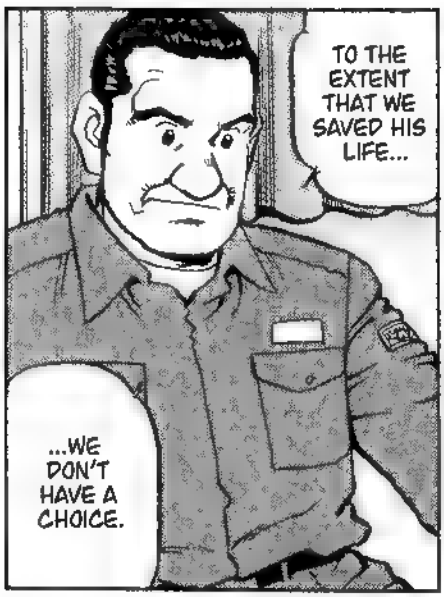
TAC
LT. MOMOI.
ENTER!
WE'RE LISTENING.
THE "BRAINS" OF THE MIRAI HAVE GATHERED.
WELL...
WHAT'S THE CONDITION OF THE MAN WE RESCUED?


...HE HAS THREE BROKEN RIBS IN HIS CHEST AND WHIPLASH.
HE'S ALSO SUSTAINED A VIOLENT BLOW TO HIS FOREHEAD.
THERE ARE NO EXTERNAL INJURIES CAUSED BY BULLETS.
HOWEVER, PROBABLY DUE TO THE SHOCK HE RECEIVED WHEN THE PLANE CRASHED INTO THE SEA...
THE BLOOD PRESSURE TO HIS BRAIN IS ELEVATED AND IT'S CRITICAL HE REMAIN CALM.
HIS BLOOD PRESSURE'S IMPROVING AND HIS PULSE HAS STABILIZED.
...AND HAVE PUT HIM ON IVS TO RECEIVE MEDICATION.
FOR THE MOMENT, WE'VE PLACED A TIGHT BANDAGE AROUND HIS RIBS...

HMM...
WE'VE GIVEN HIM TRANQUILIZERS...
SO HE WON'T REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS FOR A WHILE...
IT'LL BE ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE HE MAKES A FULL RECOVERY.
WE'RE COUNTING MORE ON TWO MONTHS.
AH...
I MEAN... MY PERSONAL EFFECTS ARE THERE RIGHT NOW...
I WAS HOPING TO PUT THE INFIRMARY'S SINGLE ROOM, WHICH YOU LOOK AFTER, AT THIS MAN'S DISPOSAL.
GOOD. LET'S MOVE ON TO OUR MAIN TOPIC.

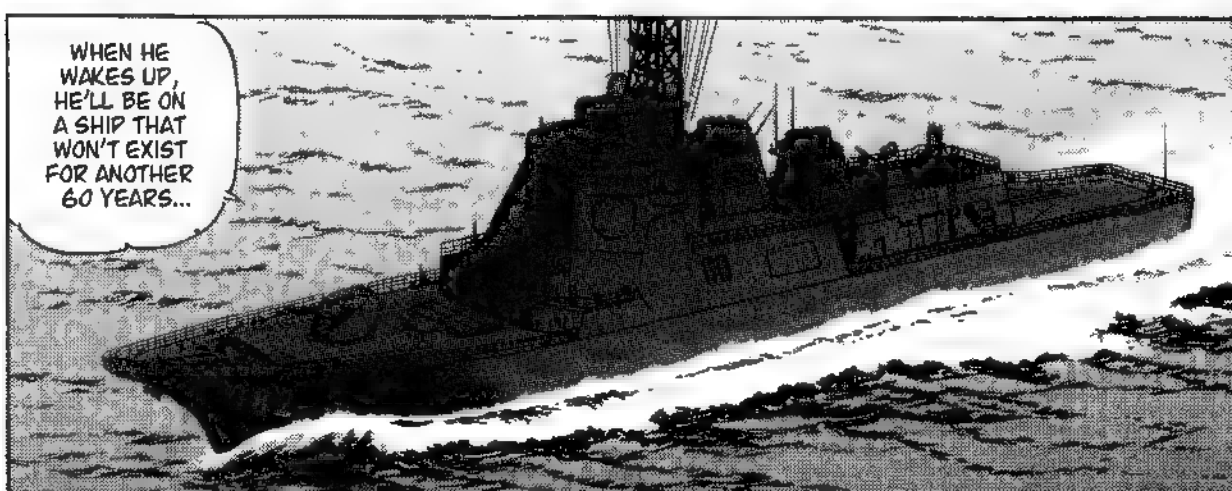
NO NEWSPAPERS, OR MAGAZINES. NOTHING.
WE HOPE YOU CAN CLEAR IT OUT, WITHOUT FORGETTING ANYTHING.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT YOU'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE CONTACT WITH HIM.
WE MUST ABSOLUTELY AVOID THAT MAN GAINING ACCESS TO THE LEAST BIT OF INFORMATION ON THIS SHIP AND ITS PASSENGERS DURING HIS STAY WITH US.
HE'S A SOLDIER, JUST LIKE US.
IT'S A COMPLETELY NORMAL MEASURE IN WARTIME.
YOU'RE CONFINING HIM TO QUARTERS... THAT IT?

IT'LL BE FINE. HE'S ON TRANQUILIZERS.
AND AT FIRST SIGHT, HE SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY CALM GUY.
IF IT'S NECESSARY, I CAN ASSIGN YOU A GUARD.
ROGER.
I'LL RETURN TO MY WORK.
TAC
FLASH
THERE'S A BETTER WAY-- WE SHARE ALL OUR INFO AND GATHER ALL WE CAN ON THIS ERA!!
TWO MONTHS? IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW DO YOU IMAGINE WE CAN PROTECT ALL OUR INFO DURING ALL THAT TIME?


TO THE EXTENT THAT WE SAVED HIS LIFE...
...WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

IF HE LEARNS WHAT SHIP HE'S ON AND THE POWER IT YIELDS, WE'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO LET HIM OFF.
ARE YOU READY TO BEAR THAT RESPONSIBILITY, OGURI?

...IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.
ALL THIS...


WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE'LL BE ON A SHIP THAT WON'T EXIST FOR ANOTHER 60 YEARS...

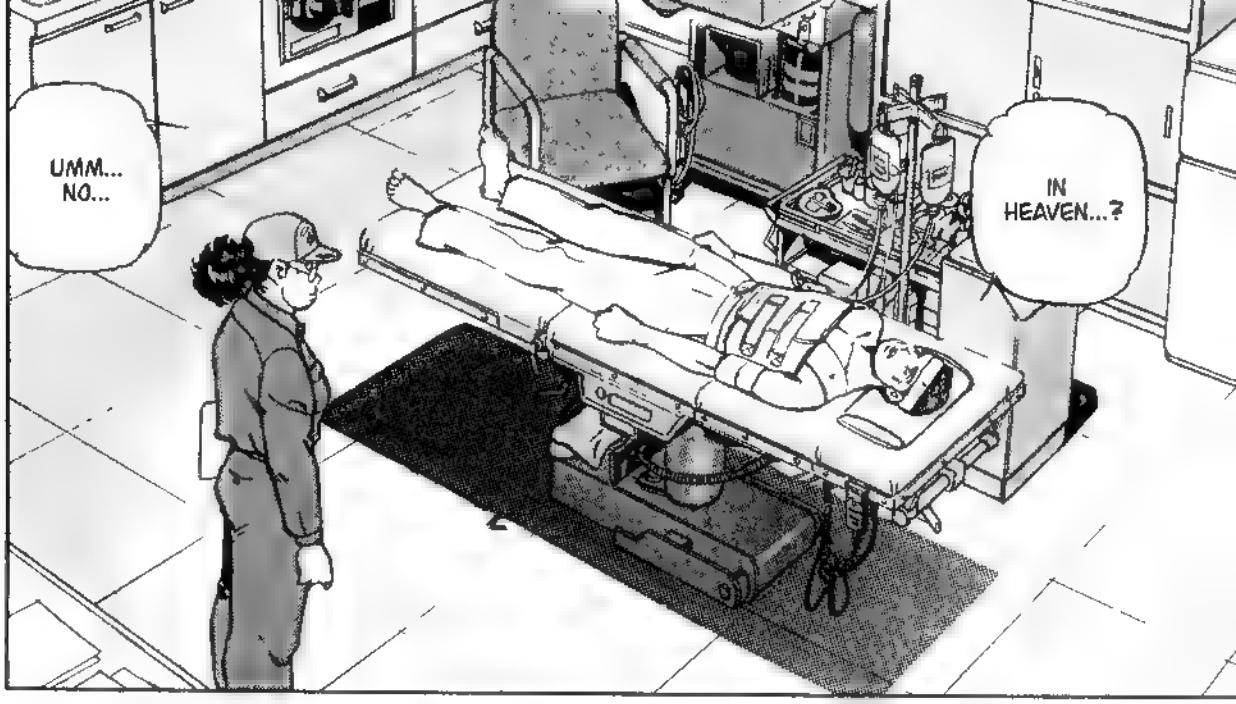
HEY!!!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED...
EVEN IN A DREAM, IT'D BE HARD TO BELIEVE...
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR HIM PERHAPS, IF HE'D SANK WITH THE PLANE.
CLAC
SAY...THE SOLDIER FROM THE EMPIRE OF 60 YEARS AGO... WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE?
NO. OUT OF THE QUESTION. GO TAKE SOME AIR UP ON DECK. WORKS WONDERS!
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE MY SEA-SICKNESS...
...SO I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE WITH AN ASPIRIN...
CLAC
ALL VISITS ARE PROHIBITED, BY ORDER OF THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN!!!
LET ME CATCH YOU HANGING AROUND HERE AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE SHARK BAIT! YOU'VE BEEN WARNED.
C'MON! LEMME JUST TAKE A SHOT OF HIM WHILE HE'S SLEEPING!

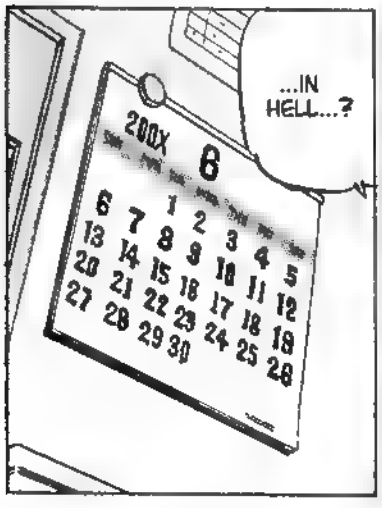
WAKE 4/ END

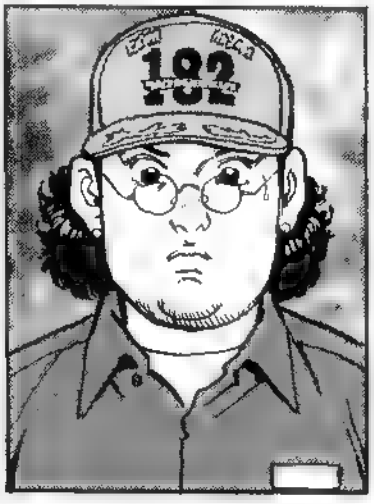
WAKE 5
FIRST CONTACT

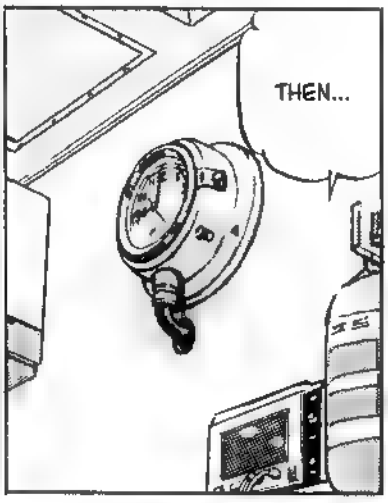
...

AH...
AH...
OH...
HE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS...
WHERE AM I...?

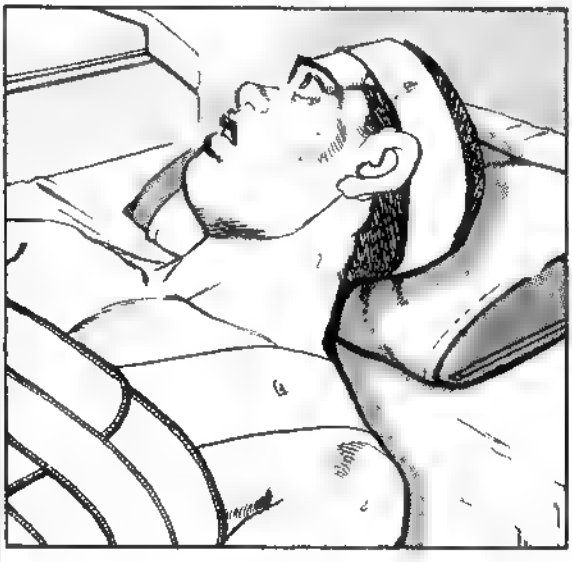

UMM... NO...
IN HEAVEN...?

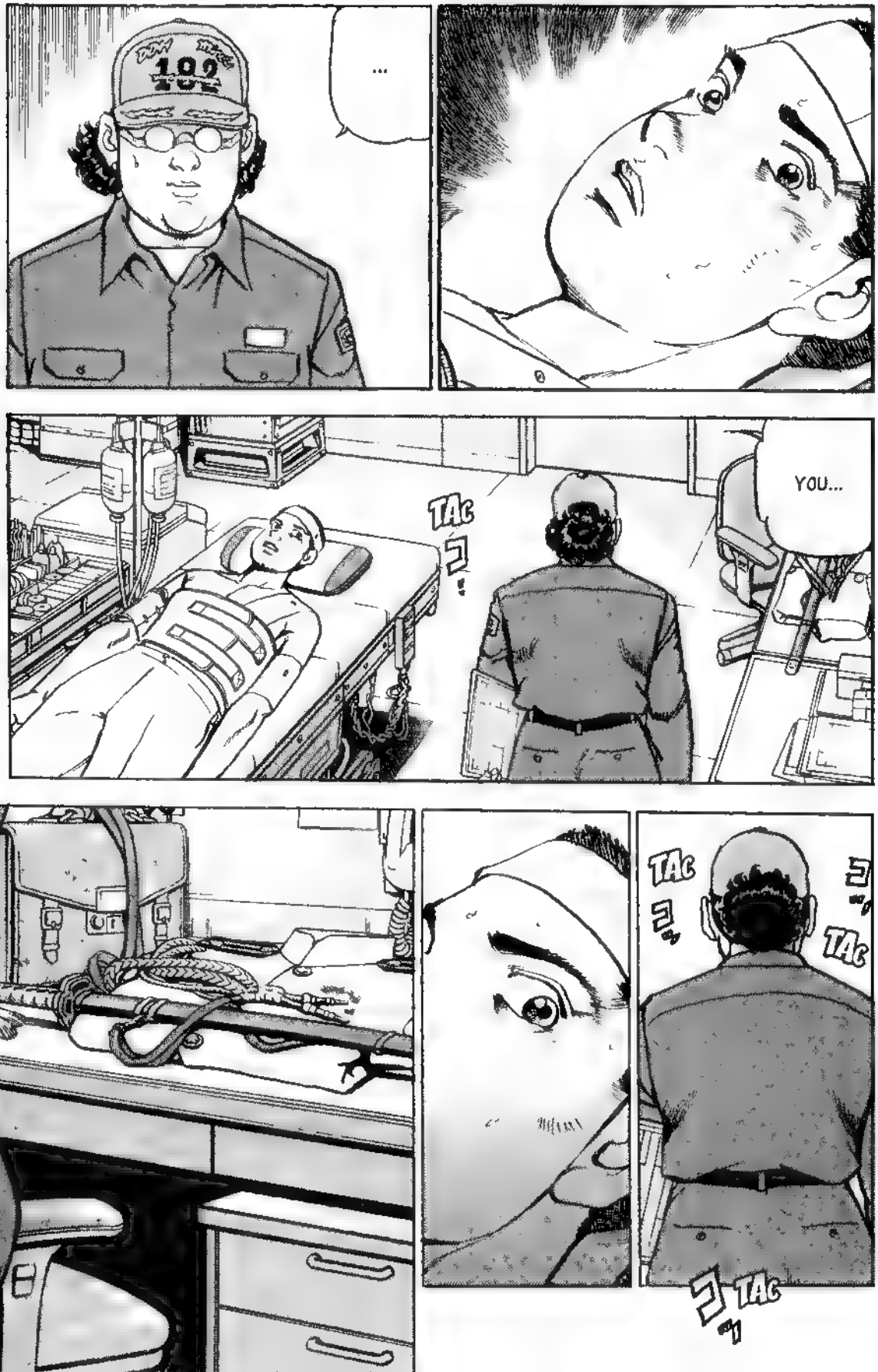

...IN HELL...?
200X 6

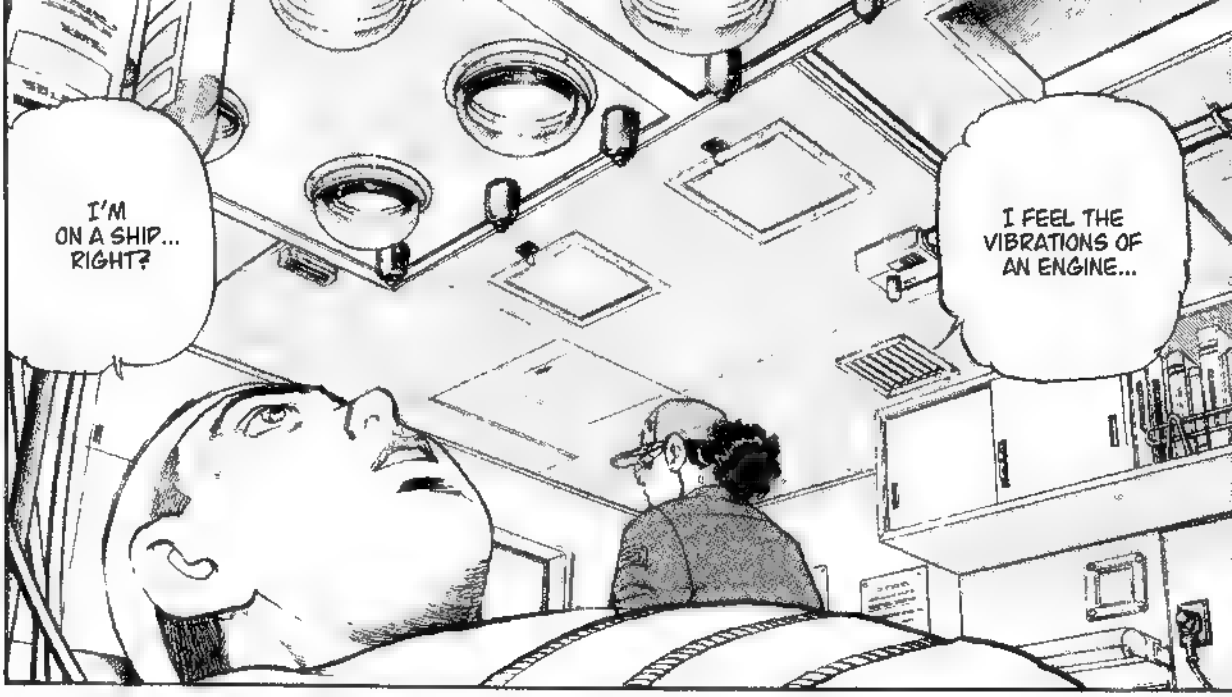

102


THEN...

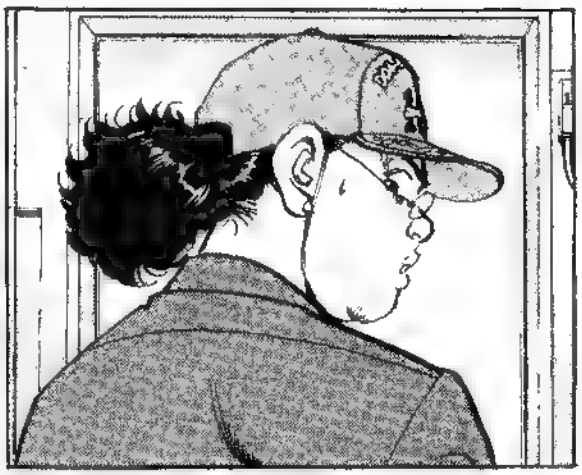
...ALIVE.
NO... YOU'RE...
102



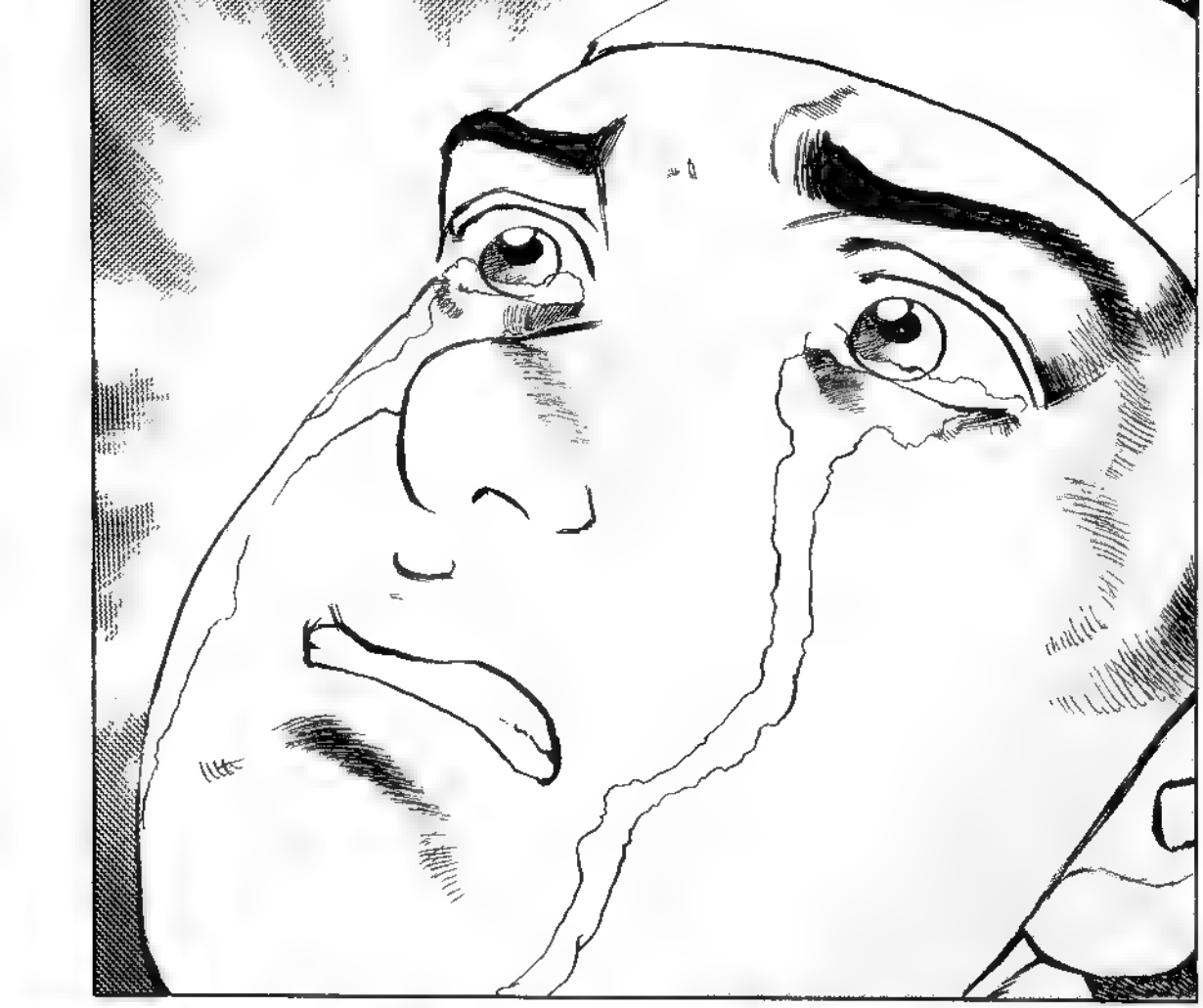

...
YOU...
TAC
TAC
TAC
TAC

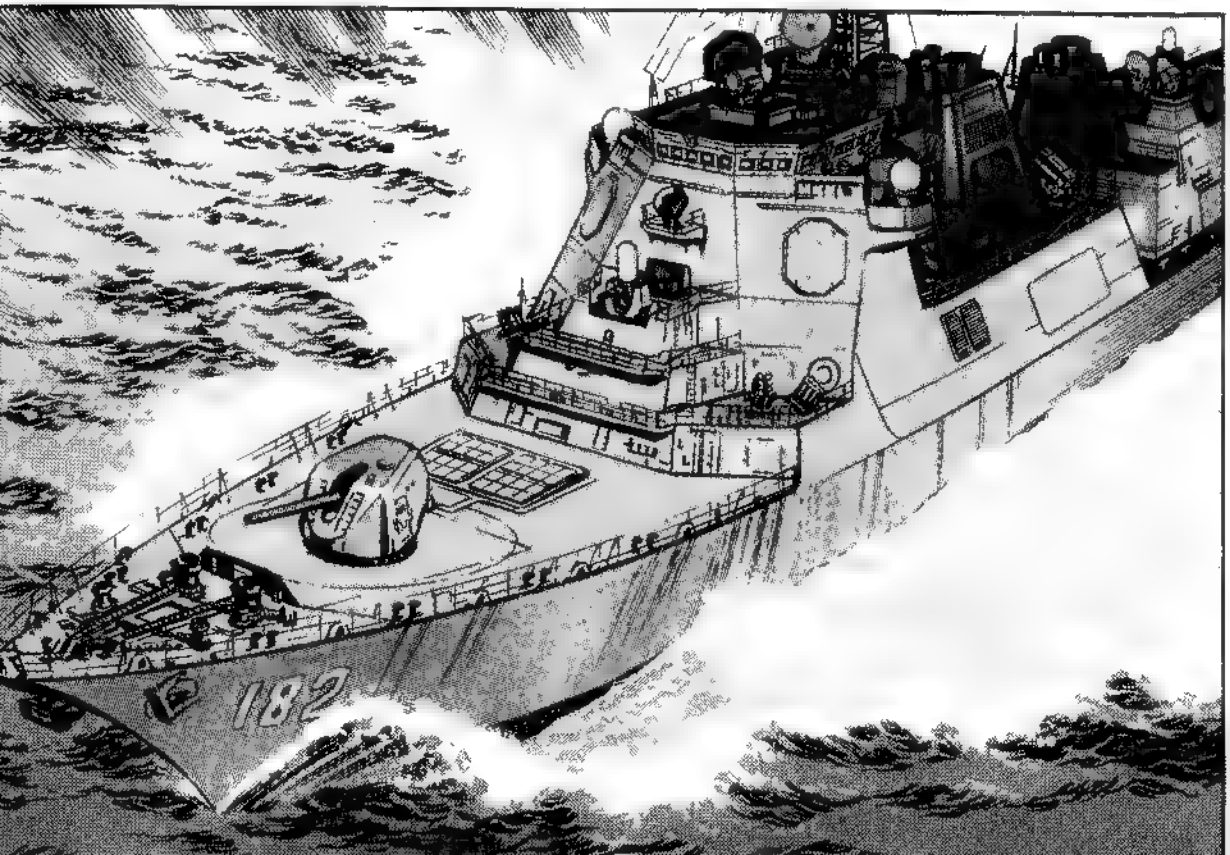

I'M ON A SHIP... RIGHT?
I FEEL THE VIBRATIONS OF AN ENGINE...

I...



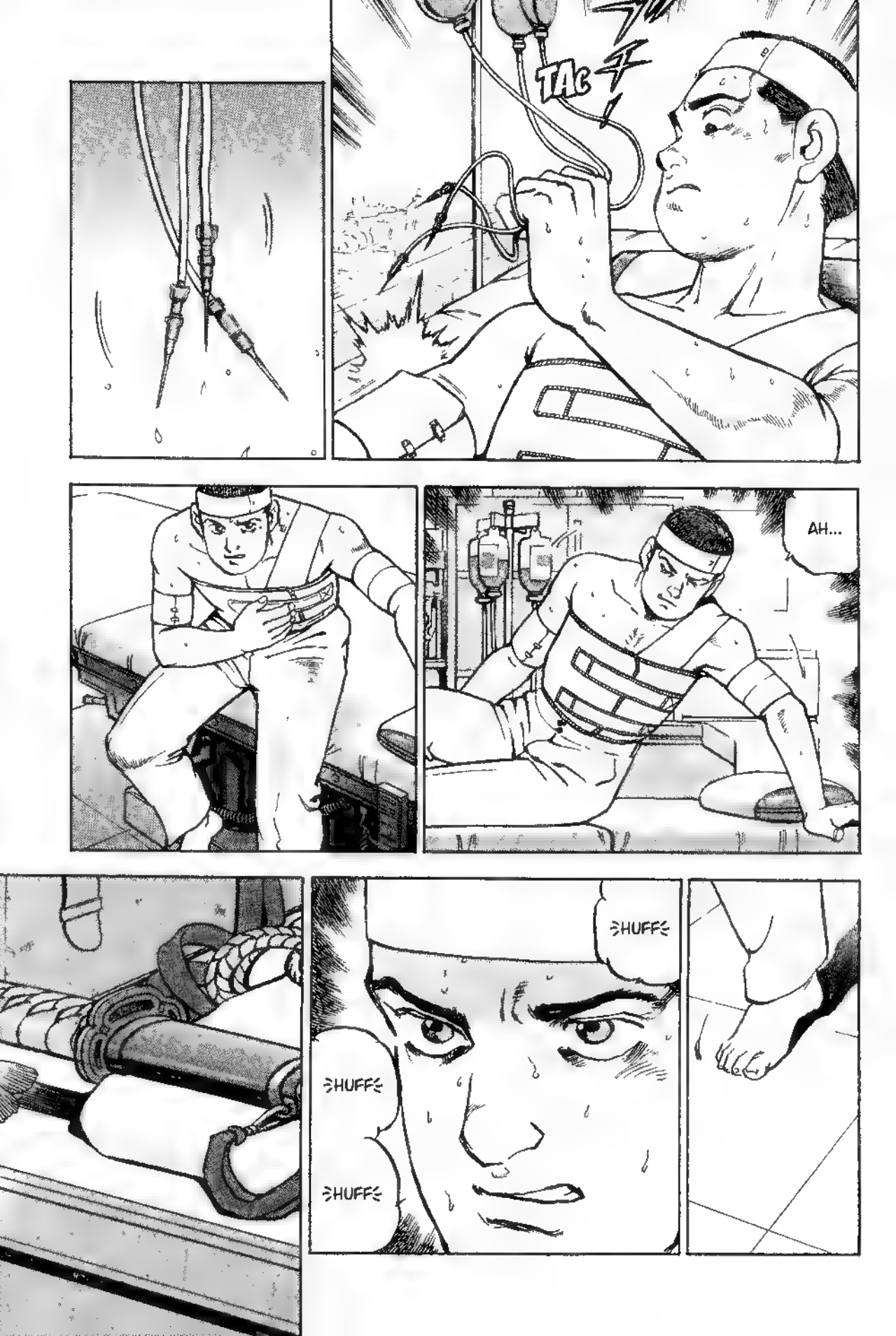
I'M ALIVE.

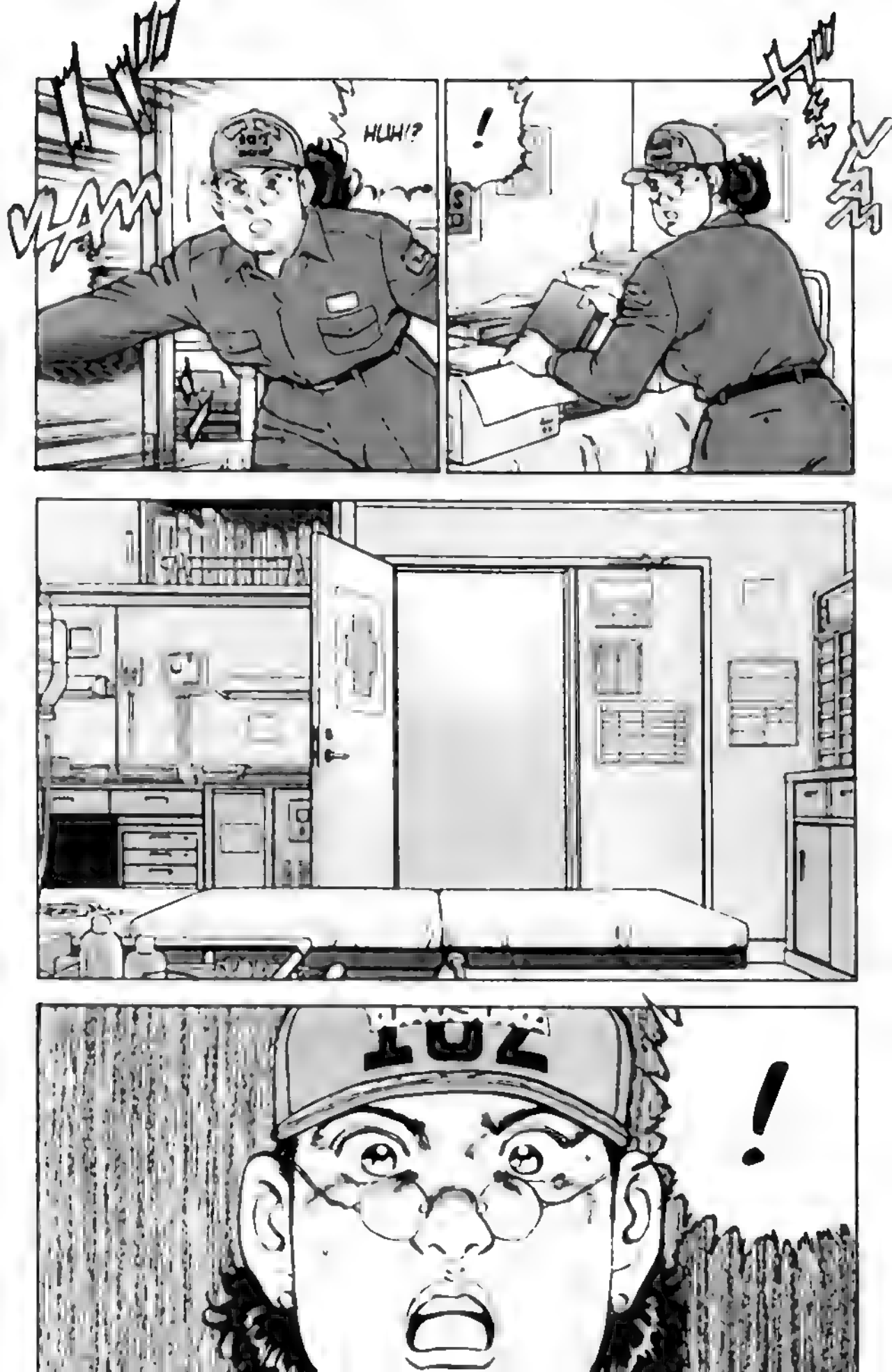



182

CLAC
DON'T WORRY AND SLEEP!
TAC
YES...YOUR PLANE CRASHED INTO THE SEA AND YOU WERE RESCUED...YOU HAD A BRUSH WITH DEATH...
FOR THE MOMENT, YOU NEED COMPLETE REST...

NO TIME TO LOSE--I'VE GOT TO MOVE ALL THIS!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'M NOT A ROOKIE ANYMORE, DAMMIT! WHY AM I IN SUCH A STATE?


TAc
AH...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


SLAM
HUH!?
!
!

TAC
LT. MOMOI? WHAT IS IT?
OFFICERS' ROOM, I'M LISTENING?
R
!
DISA-PPEARED!?
WHAT?!
UNDERSTOOD! HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR. CHECK THE CORRIDOR!!!
HE TOOK OFF WITH HIS UNIFORM, HIS SABER AND HIS BAG!!!
YES! WHILE I WAS TIDYING UP THE ROOM ADJOINING THE INFIRMARY, I LEFT HIM FOR A MOMENT AND HE DISA-PPEARED!

WE SHOULD'VE PUT AWAY HIS SABER IMMEDIATELY.
JUST LIKE WE SHOULD'VE FORESEEN THE WORSE...
TAC
HE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS THEN?!
CAPTAIN! THE NAVAL OFFICER WE RESCUED HAS ESCAPED.

ROGER THAT!!!
XO TO CONTROL ROOM! CHECK THE SURVEILLANCE MONITORS!!!
THE WOUNDED MAN WE PULLED FROM THE SEA MUST BE WANDERING AROUND THE CORRIDORS!

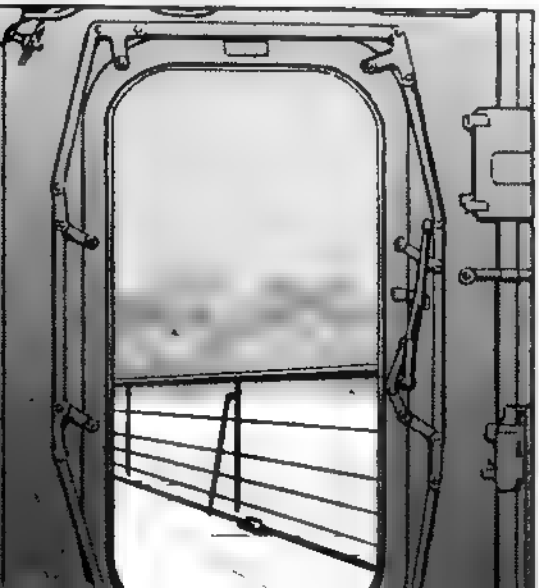
CLAC
I'LL CATCH HIM!!!
The wounded man is armed with a saber. Avoid all contact with him!
XO to the entire crew! Close all nearby doors and stay in your own quarters.

HE CAN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CLIMB TO THE TOP DECK.

COMMANDER! SHOULDN'T WE TAKE WEAPONS FROM THE LOCKER?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE! THIS IS AN INVALID WE'RE PURSUING!!!

HE'S SURELY SOMEWHERE ON THE FIRST OR SECOND DECK!

YOU FOUND HIM, LIEUTENANT?
COMMANDER!



!
THIS WAY!

...IS VERY BEAUTIFUL...

DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE GERMANS, THE AMERICANS OR THE ENGLISH...
DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WE HAVE IN OUR IMPERIAL NAVY...
SWIMMING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AND FULFILLING MY DUTY...
IF I PUSH MYSELF TO THE LIMIT, I COULD REJOIN MY COMRADES ON THE AKAGI...
YOU WANT TO JUMP?
OR ARE YOU COMMITING SEPPUKU*?
CAUGHT IN THE OCEAN CURRENTS, I REALIZED IT.
THIS IS THE MAN WHO SAVED YOU!!!
HE DIVED IN, ALONE !!!

*SEPPUKU (OR HARAKIRI) IS A FORM OF JAPANESE RITUAL SUICIDE BY DISEMBOWLMENT

HA! HA! HA!
I'M A NAVY OFFICER AND YET, SWIMMING ISN'T MY STRONG SUIT...
I WANT TO KNOW TO WHOM THIS SHIP BELONGS AND ITS DESTINATION!

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW, TOO.
WHERE'RE GOING? WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE...?
I'M SORRY BUT...
...I CAN'T ANSWER YOU.
...
THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU...
THEN... FRIEND...
...OR FOE?
...IS THAT WE'RE JAPANESE, JUST LIKE YOU.

MY NAME IS YOSUKE KADOMATSU.
NO...
!

...TAKUMI KUSAKA...
LT. COMMANDER...
ﾁｬｷﾝ!

I THANK YOU.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

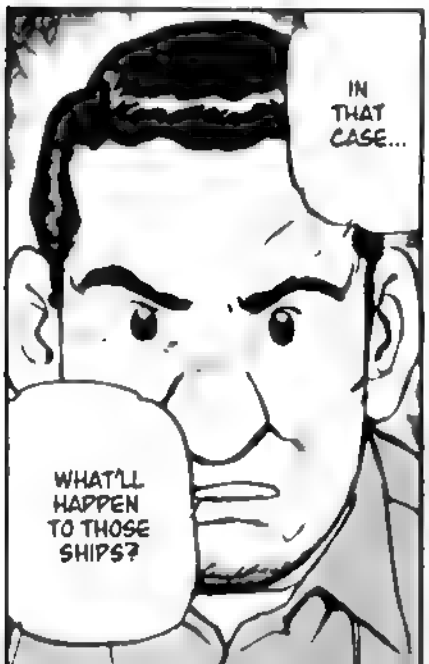
WAKE 5/ END

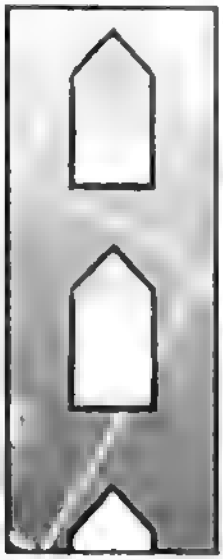
WAKE 6
THE MAROONED
182
182

THAT'S WHERE THE CHANGE OCCURRED.
YES.

27° 36' NORTH LATITUDE. 171° 61' EAST LONGITUDE.
AT THIS SPEED, IN FIVE MINUTES...

WILL SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHEN WE PASSED THAT LOCATION, WE WERE CAUGHT IN LOW ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE...AND AT THE MOMENT, WE AREN'T DETECTING ANY.


IN THAT CASE...
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THOSE SHIPS?

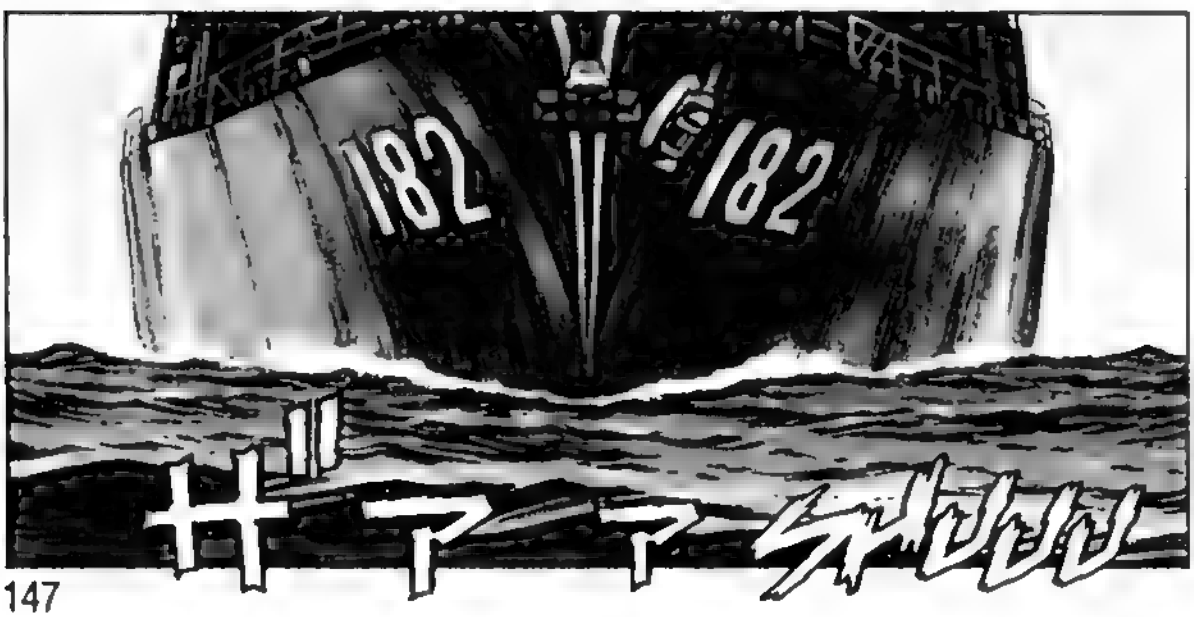


HOWEVER, THAT'S WHERE THE TEMPORAL DISTORTION OCCURRED... AND IF IT STILL EXISTS...
... WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE OF RETURNING TO OUR TIME...

IF WE LEAVE THIS TIME-SPACE...
...THEY SHOULD DISAPPEAR FROM OUR RADAR.
200 KM AHEAD OF US, THOSE GIGANTIC SHIPS LINED UP LIKE A FUNERAL PROCESSION ON THEIR WAY BACK TO JAPAN?
I DON'T KNOW...
HE MIGHT HIMSELF UNDERGO CHANGES.
GOOD.
AND CAPTAIN KUSAKA, WHOM WE SAVED?
OKAY... STOP THE ENGINES!!!

STOP THE ENGINES!!
ENGINES STOPPED!!
182
I BEG YOU
BRING US BACK
WE'VE STOPPED

...TO THE JAPAN WE KNOW!!!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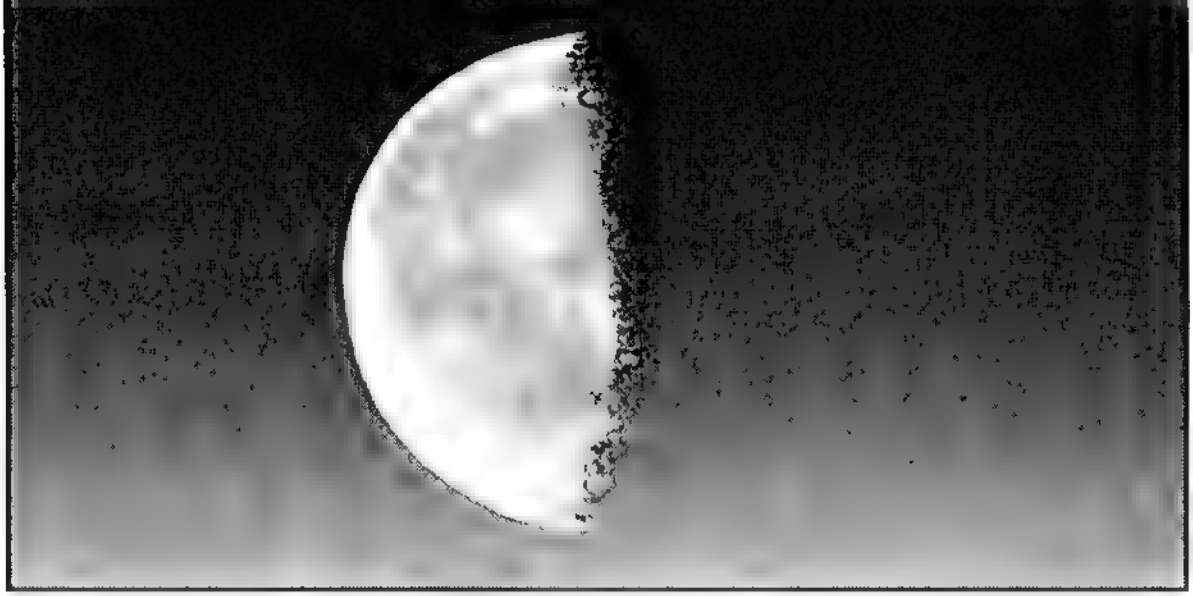
182

182

...?

...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
THE SHIP STOPS...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
THE MOON?



WELL?!
NOTHING?!

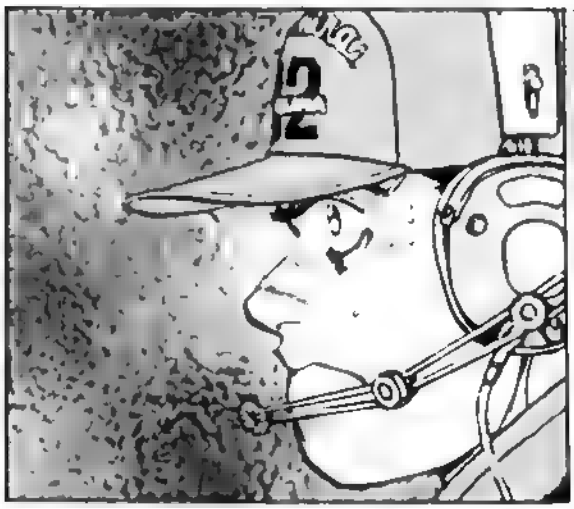
GOOD LORD...NO CHANGE!

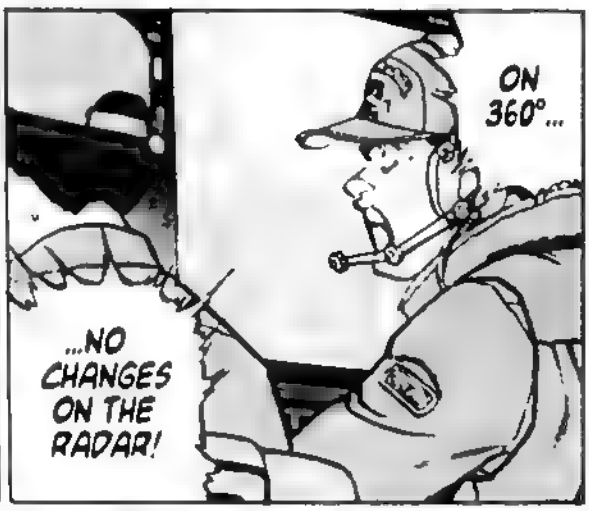
BROOHAHA
BROOHAHA
CLAP
BROOHAHA

HOW'S THE MOON?!
LET'S GO SEE ON THE BRIDGE!!!

WHY?
WHY'S NOTHING HAPPENING?!
KASUMIGAOKA
AND THE SNOW? AND THE LIGHTNING? AND THE LOW ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE?

THEY'RE STILL THERE.




ON 360°...
...NO CHANGES ON THE RADAR!

WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT PORT!!

IT'S A PUNISHMENT FROM GOD!!
SO THE NEW FRONTLINE, IT WAS A MISTAKE, HUH?

HIM...
HE WASN'T HERE WHEN WE CAME...
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LT. KASHIWA-BARA?!
NO, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FRONTLINE.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE FROM WHEN WE FIRST PASSED HERE...!!
WE AREN'T IN THE SAME CONDITIONS, THAT'S WHY THE 'DOOR' WON'T OPEN!
!
YOU SEE ANOTHER REASON?
IF WE'RE STILL HERE, IT'S 'CAUSE THERE'S A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE!
WELL, SO..
BECAUSE OF A SINGLE PERSON?

YOU SHOULD BE ON YOUR WAY TO TAKE YOUR GUARD SHIFT!
WHAT'S GOING ON, KASHIWA-BARA?

I'LL LISTEN
NOW THAT'S INTERESTING! YOU DIDN'T HEAR THE COMMANDER'S ORDERS? HUH?
WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK THIS GUY FIRST!
VISITS ARE PROHIBITED.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'S SERIOUSLY INJURED!
HUH?
HOW BOTHERSOME.
WHAT? SOME OF THE CREW?

YOU SHOULD'VE DIED IN YOUR PLANE!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE A PART OF HISTORY ANYMORE!
WHY?! AM I WRONG?!
KASHIWA-BARA, SHUT UP!
WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE, NEITHER US NOR THIS SHIP.
AND IN THAT CASE, WHO WOULD'VE SAVED HIM?

?!
MAN'S SPIRIT...
... LIVES IN WHAT HE CREATES...
...WERE LIKE A SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT OF THE RENAISSANCE IN WESTERN EUROPE.
LEONARDO DA VINCI'S ARTIFICIAL WINGS...
...DIFFERENT FROM ME.
YES, YOU REALLY *ARE* JAPANESE... BUT...

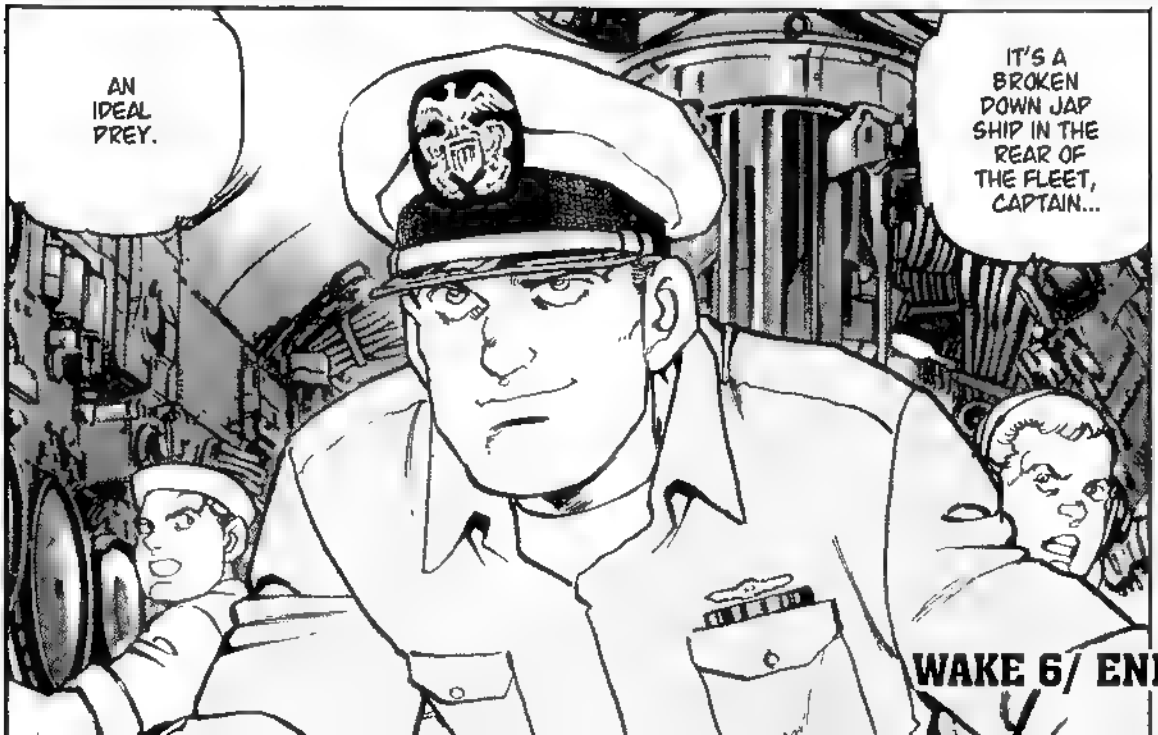
THIS SHIP WASN'T BUILT BY OUR EMPIRE.
IT'S THE WORK OF ANOTHER KIND OF SPIRIT.

YOU'RE JAPANESE...
BUT WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?!

...YOU'LL NEVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO SET FOOT ON YOUR COUNTRY'S SOIL.
IF I ANSWER YOU...
YOU'LL BE MAROONED!
YOU'LL WANDER THE PACIFIC OCEAN WITH US!!!
DO YOU KNOW PEOPLE...
...WHO'D SIGN ONTO A SHIP WITHOUT ALREADY RESIGNING THEMSELVES TO IT?

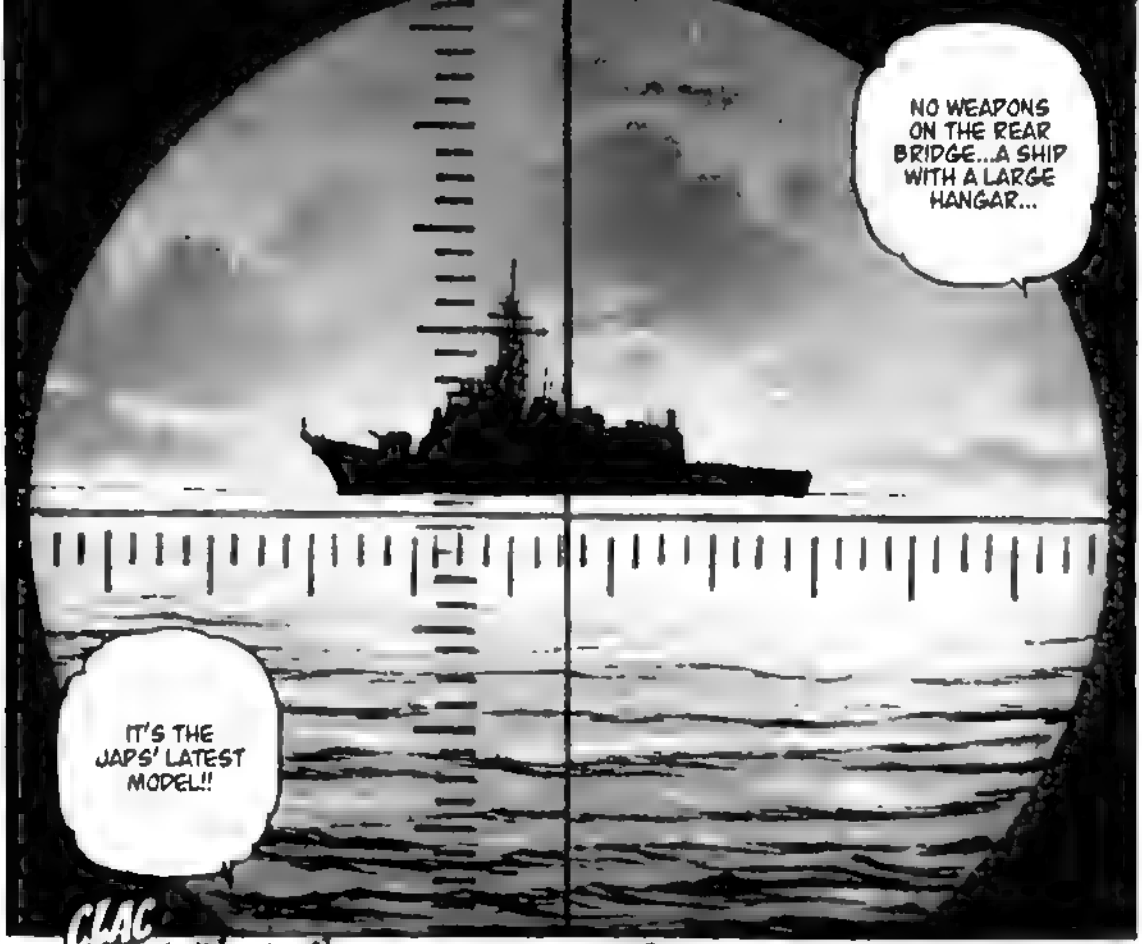
HE...
THE TENSION IS RISING DANGER-OUSLY...
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL TELL YOU.
YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT!
...OF THE 21ST CENTURY!!!
WE COME FROM THE JAPAN...

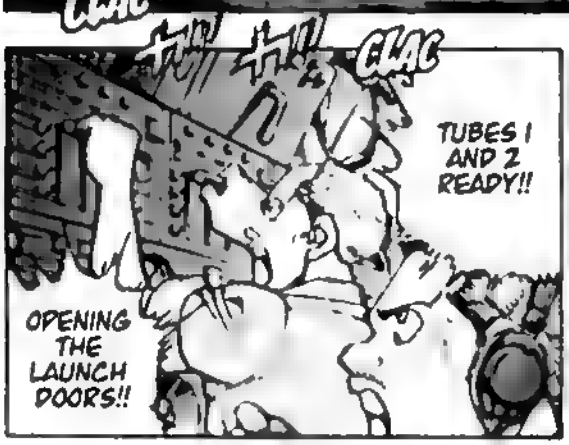
There's a stalled ship 10 miles ahead of us, starboard! The engines are completely off!


AN IDEAL PREY.
IT'S A BROKEN DOWN JAP SHIP IN THE REAR OF THE FLEET, CAPTAIN...
WAKE 6/ END

WAKE 7
LIGHTNING ATTACK

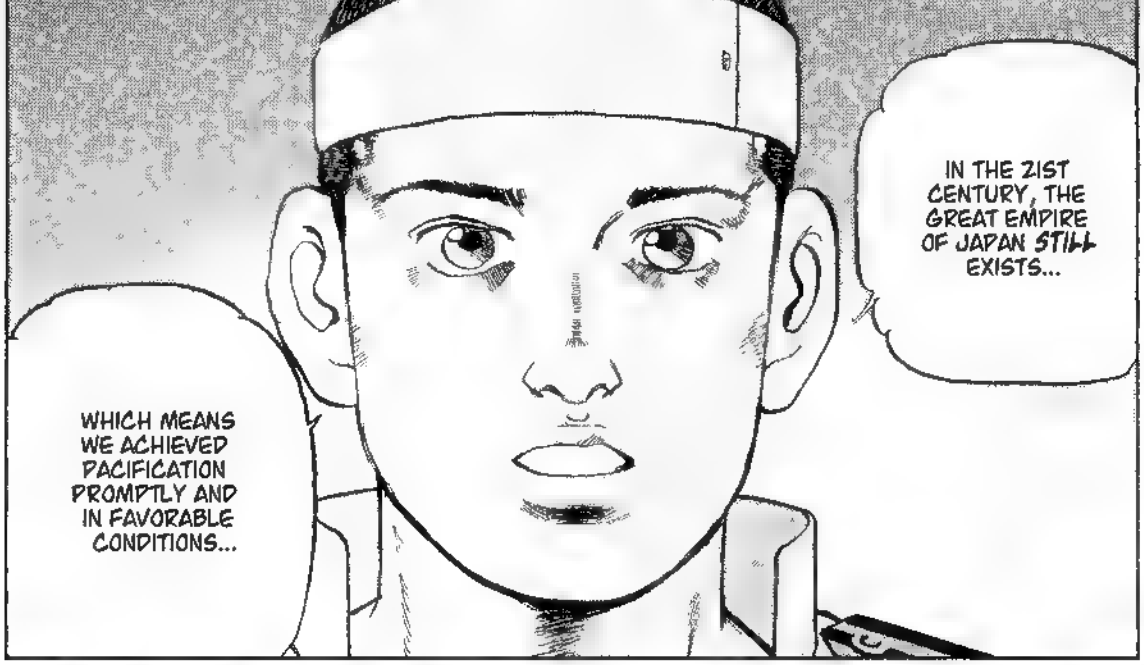
ZAT
Distance--
400 m
Orientation
3 2 2
JUDGING FROM THE SHAPE OF THE BRIDGE, IT'S A "TAKAO" CLASS SHIP, BUT...
NO COMBUSTION SMOKE...THEIR ENGINES ARE COMPLETELY SHUT OFF.
THEY MUST HAVE SOME MIGHTY SERIOUS FIREPOWER

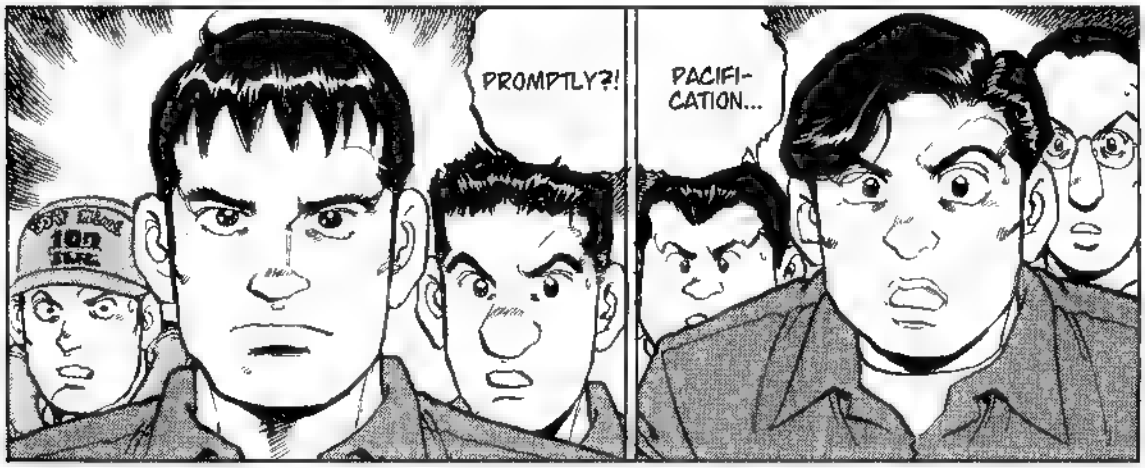

NO WEAPONS ON THE REAR BRIDGE...A SHIP WITH A LARGE HANGAR...
IT'S THE JAPS' LATEST MODEL!!


CLAC
TUBES 1 AND 2 READY!!
OPENING THE LAUNCH DOORS!!

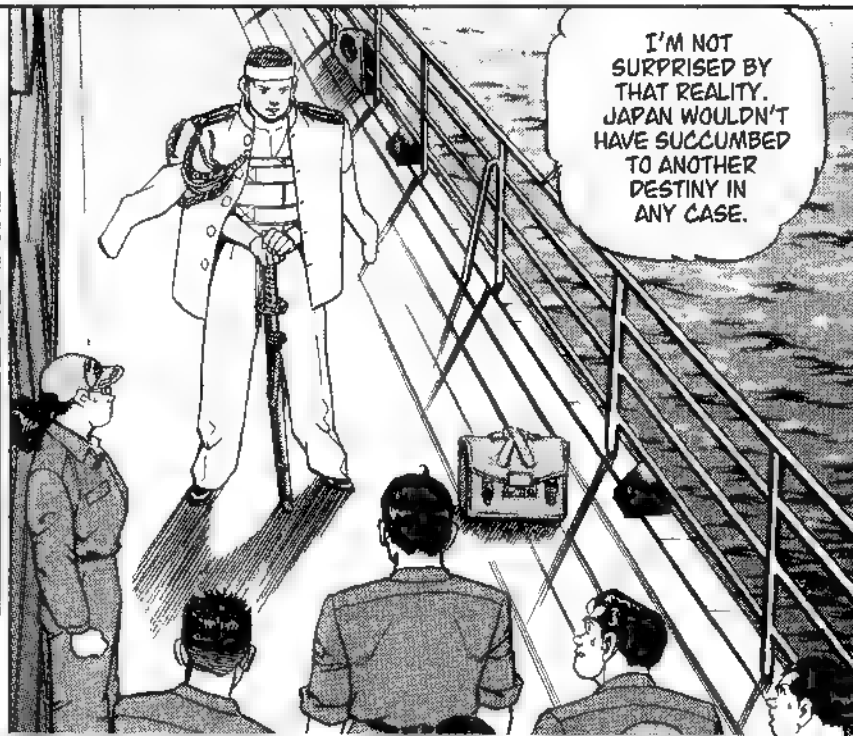
CLAC
PREPARE TUBES 1 AND 2!
AYE, AYE, SIR! PLACING MK14 TORPEDOES!!

ENGINES STALLED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...YOU HAD BAD LUCK.
HEY! DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME...


IN THE 21ST CENTURY, THE GREAT EMPIRE OF JAPAN STILL EXISTS...
WHICH MEANS WE ACHIEVED PACIFICATION PROMPTLY AND IN FAVORABLE CONDITIONS...


PROMPTLY?!
PACIFI-CATION...

WHOA! NOT SO FAST! YOU BELIEVE WHAT WE TOLD YOU THEN?!
THEN LEMME TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT JAPAN...


I'M NOT SURPRISED BY THAT REALITY. JAPAN WOULDN'T HAVE SUCCUMBED TO ANOTHER DESTINY IN ANY CASE.

LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT, PLEASE!
!!

I'M THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN, UMEZO.

SAT
I FINALLY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING THE HIGHEST-RANKING PERSON ABOARD THIS VESSEL.
IT'S AN HONOR, CAPTAIN!!!

YOUR COUNTRY HASN'T DISAPPEARED.
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR YOU, LT. COMMANDER KUSAKA..

FIRE!!!
SOOOO
HUH? A RESPONSE FROM PASSIVE SONAR?
102
!!
BEHIND US PORTSIDE, I'M PICKING UP AN UNIDENTIFIED NOISE...
CLOSING ON US QUICKLY!!

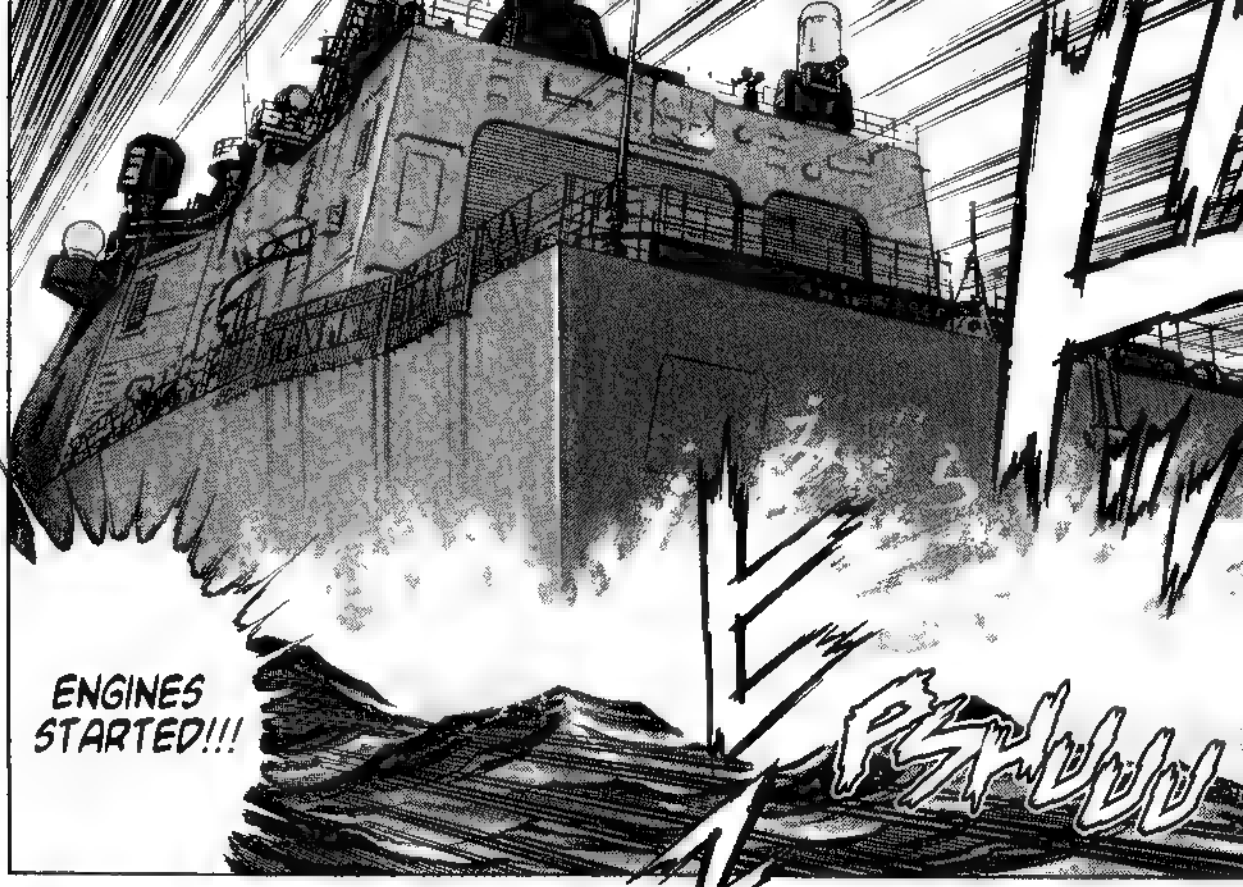
BEHIND US, PORTSIDE, 210°, DETECTING TWO TORPEDOES CLOSING ON US VERY QUICKLY!!!
SPEED-- 44 KNOTS... DISTANCE-- LESS THAN 3,200 M!!!
TWO MINUTES AND 20 SECONDS TILL IMPACT!
WHAT?!
...
TORPEDOS !!!

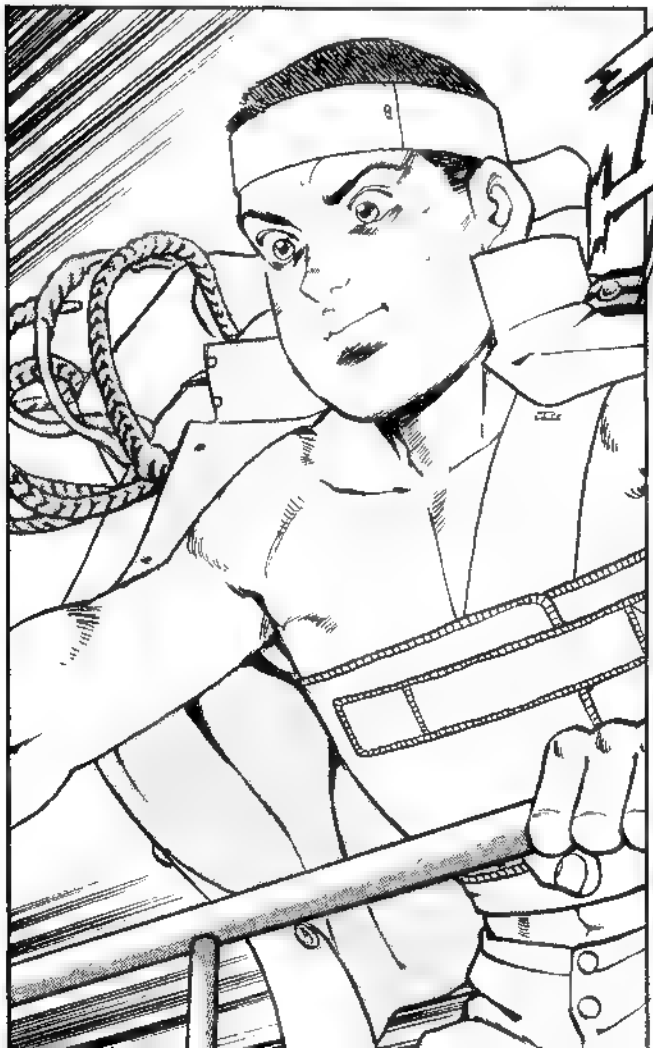
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!!
EVERYONE TO THEIR POSTS!! WE'LL EVADE THIS LIKE IN THE DRILL.
TA
TA
TA
ROGER!
BII
BII
BII
BII
BII
BII
ZAT
...TOWN-SIDE?

WE'RE IN A MARITIME ZONE WITH A LOT OF INTERFERENCE AND THE SOUND REFLECTORS WERE DISRUPTED
HOW CAN THEY BE SO CLOSE? WHY DIDN'T THE SONAR DETECT THEM EARLIER?!
YESSIR!!!
IDIOTS!! IT'S TRAINING YOU'RE MISSING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!!!
WE'RE MISSING DATA ON THE TEMPERATURE, CURRENTS AND WATER DENSITY OF THIS ZONE!!
BiP
DISTANCE-- 200 M!!!
BRRR BRRR
BRRR BRRR

!
SHIT! CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WITH THE WATER'S REFLECTION!
_SIGHTED!!!
TORPEDOES WAKE_
TWO TORPEDOES ARE HEADED TOWARDS US!
WHAT'S YOU DOING?
DON'T DAWDLE MEN! HURRY TO THE INFIRMARY
WHAM!

...WITH MY OWN EYES...
I WANT TO SEE THE POWER OF THIS SHIP...
YEAH, CLEARLY... YOU HAVE INTERESTS WORTHY OF A SOLDIER BUT...
...IT'S CURIOSITY THAT KILLED THE CAT, YOU KNOW.


ENGINES STARTED!!!
BRUUU



AAAH!!!

UHM...

I can't make out its engine noise...
The target has started its engines!
4...
3...
IT'LL TAKE 'EM HALF A DAY TO MOVE THAT TUB FROM THERE.
IMPACT IN FIVE SECONDS.
THE ENGINES STARTED?!
THEY WEREN'T BROKEN DOWN THEN?
1...
2...

EVADE!!!

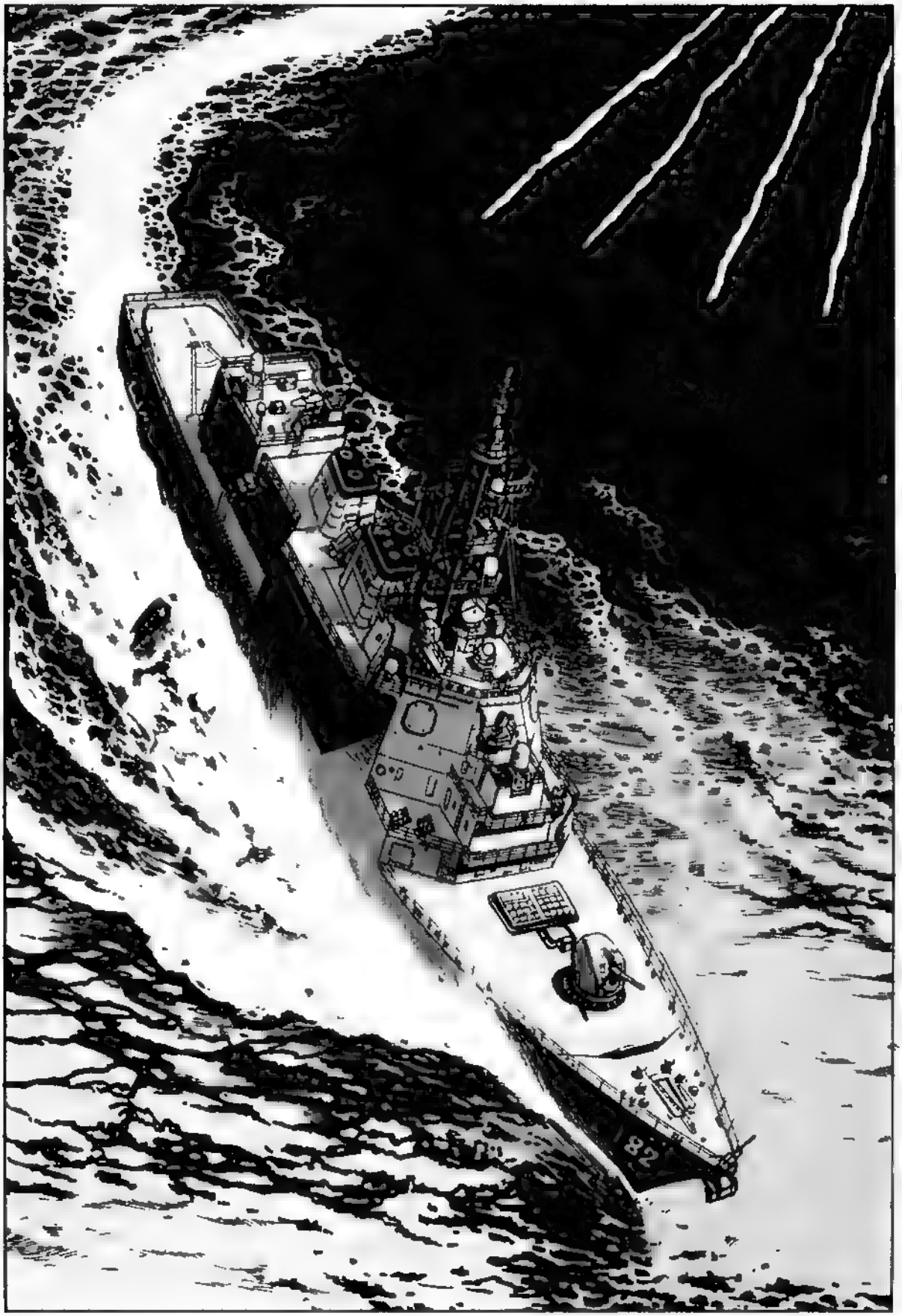
UHM!

SHUUUU

DEPTH-- 10 M, ORIENTATION 1.9.2!!
DISTANCE— 3800!
WHAT'S THE TORPEDO LAUNCHER'S POSITION?
WE EVADED THEM?!
WE, WE'RE GOING TO GET KILLED!
IT'S FOLLOWING US AT A SPEED OF ARKLAND'S KNOTS!

HARDLY 30 SECONDS AFTER HAVING STARTED THE ENGINES...!
WHERE THE HELL'D THE JAPS GET A SHIP LIKE THAT...?
ROGER THAT!!!
OPEN TORPEDO TUBES 3, 4, 5, 6!!!
A WIDE SPREAD, SO THEY CAN'T EVADE 'EM ALL BY MANOEUVERING!!!
SHUUUU

WICKED TRAJECTORIES!
TORPEDOS! FOUR!
CLOSING IN!!!
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
GOT THE ENEMY'S DATA...
FULL RUDDER!!!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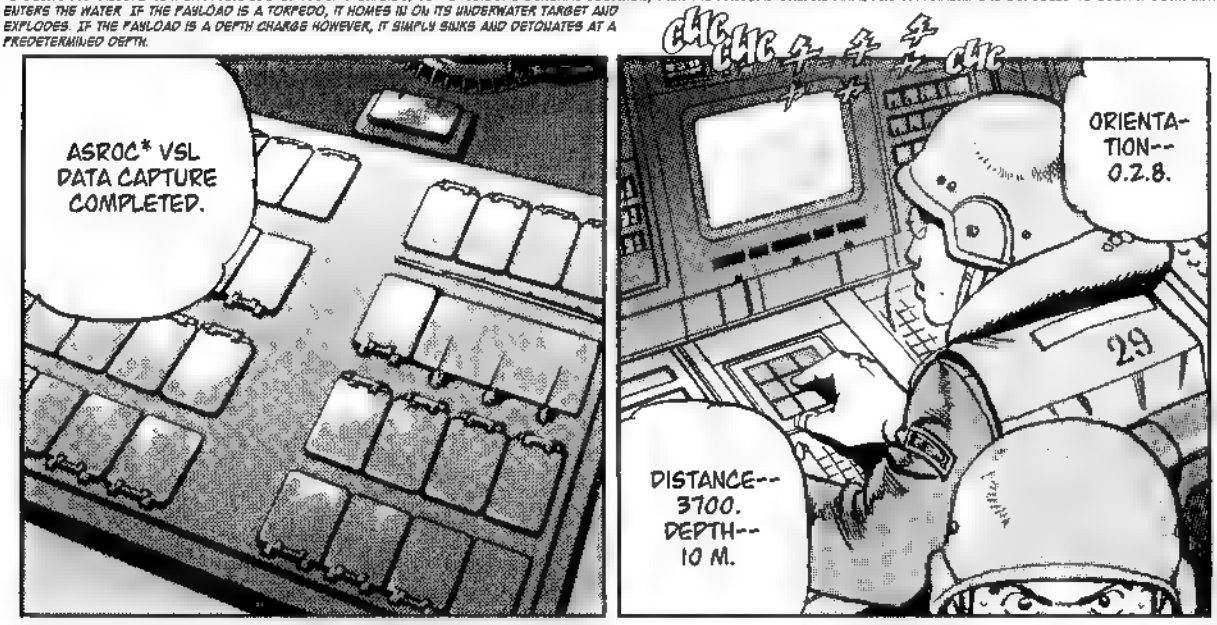
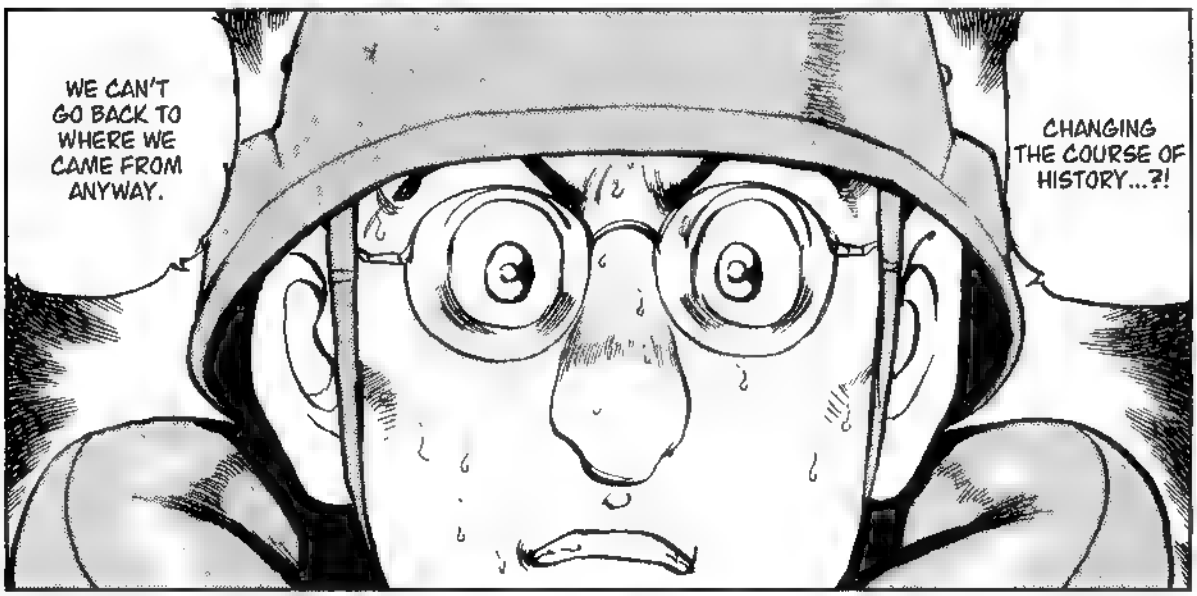
*THE ASROC (ANTI-SUBMARINE ROCKET) IS A ROCKET-PROPELLED, THREE-STAGE, ANTI-SUBMARINE MISSILE SYSTEM ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. NAVY IN THE 50S. THE SYSTEM USES A MISSILE TO DELIVER A PAYLOAD (EITHER A TORPEDO OR A DEPTH CHARGE) TO ITS TARGET'S GENERAL LOCATION, THEN THE PAYLOAD BREAKS AWAY AND A PARACHUTE IS DEPLOYED TO SLOW IT DOWN UNTIL IT ENTERS THE WATER. IF THE PAYLOAD IS A TORPEDO, IT HOMES IN ON ITS UNDERWATER TARGET AND EXPLODES. IF THE PAYLOAD IS A DEPTH CHARGE HOWEVER, IT SIMPLY SINKS AND DETONATES AT A PREDETERMINED DEPTH.





ON
WE WON'T GIVE YOU THE CHANCE...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MESSED WITH US...YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF.
ZAT
...TO KILL US!!!

WAKE 8
THE MIRAI'S BATTLE

PSHUUU

AN
EXPLOSION?
SHUUUU
!

WHAT?!

OPENING OF THE VLS ON THE FORWARD BRIDGE!!

IT'S HEADING FOR THE TORPEDOES' LAUNCH POINT!!!

ASROC LAUNCHED!!

ARCHER!!!

!!

WHO HIT HIT FIRE BUTTON?

I DIDN'T GIVE THE ORDER TO FIRE!!!
TAC
ARE YOU CRAZY?! YOU WANT TO START A WAR SINGLE-HANDEDLY?!

IF WE DON'T GET THEM...
THEY'LL GET US LT. COMMANDER!

!

AYE, AYE, LT. COM-MANDER!!

REPORT A "HUMAN ERROR" AND GET THIS DIPSHIT OUT OF HERE!

THIS IS COMMANDER KADOMATSU!! WHO GAVE THE AUTHORIZATION TO FIRE?!

CIC! I WANT AN IMMEDIATE REPORT ON THE SITUATION!

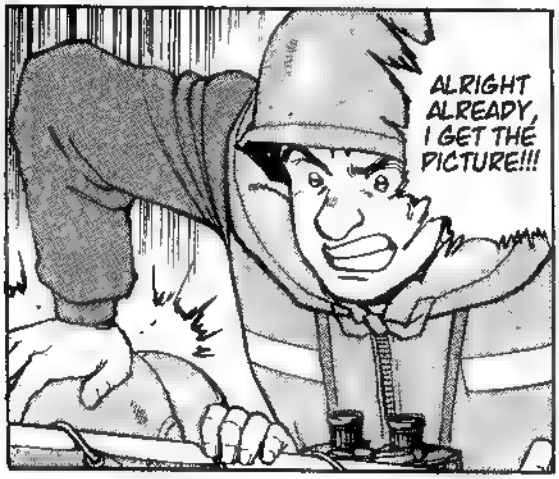
TORPEDOES' DISTANCE-- 20 M!!!!

KLIK

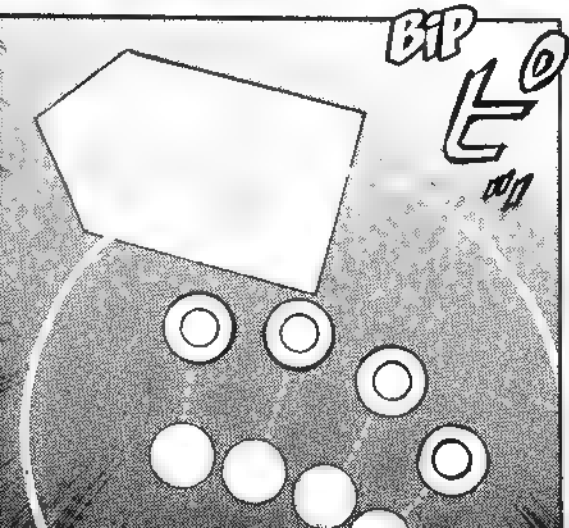
DOOM

YANAGI! ARE THEY JAPANESE OR AMERICAN?!

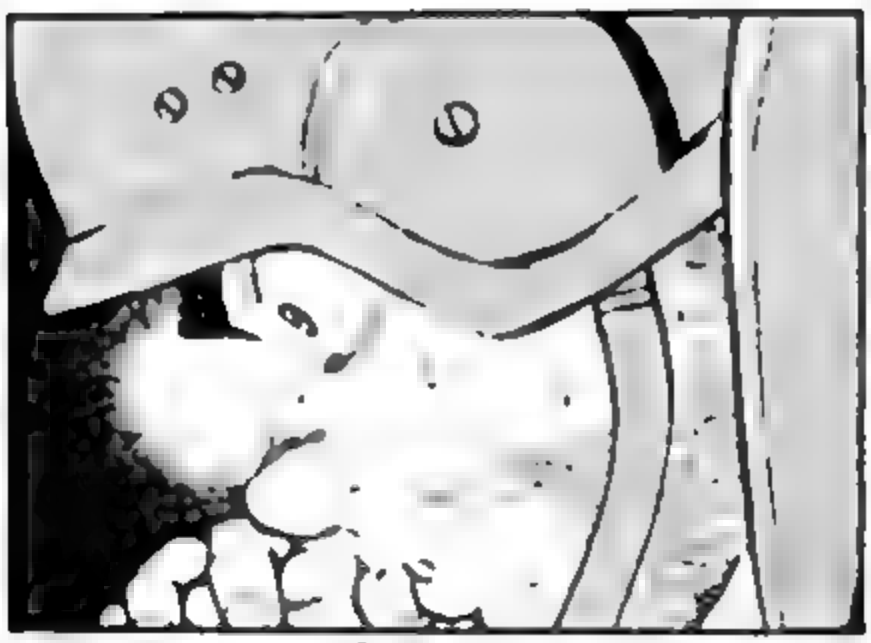
THEY'RE AMERICAN MK-145, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!


ALRIGHT ALREADY, I GET THE PICTURE!!!

THE JAPANESE NAVY'S TORPEDOES ARE OXYGEN-PROPELLED AND DON'T LEAVE A WAKE LIKE THAT.
THE AMERICAN NAVY'S GIVE OFF CARBON DIOXIDE, THAT'S WHY...


BIP
BIP

TOO LATE! THEY'RE GOING TO HIT US!!!



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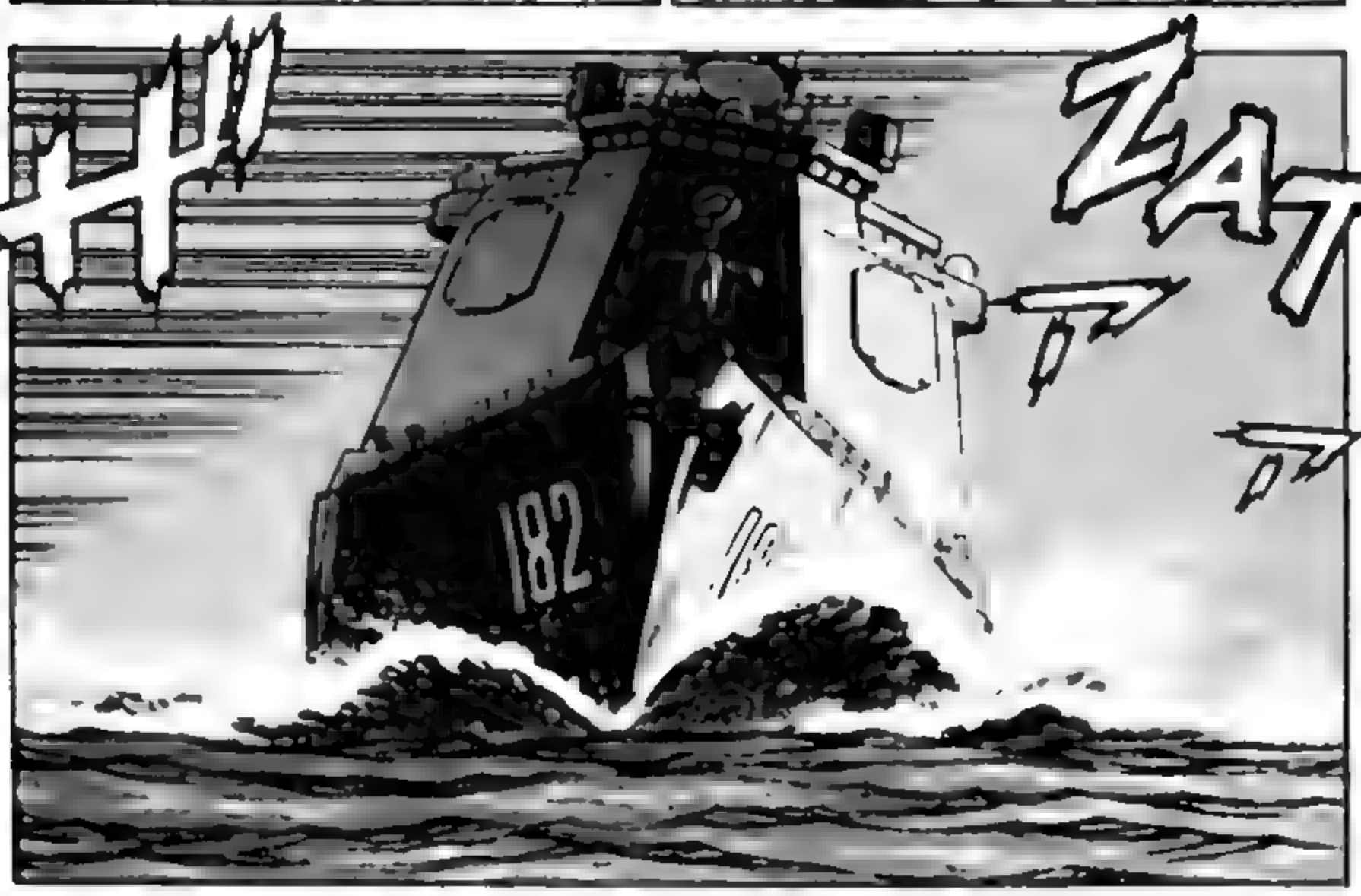
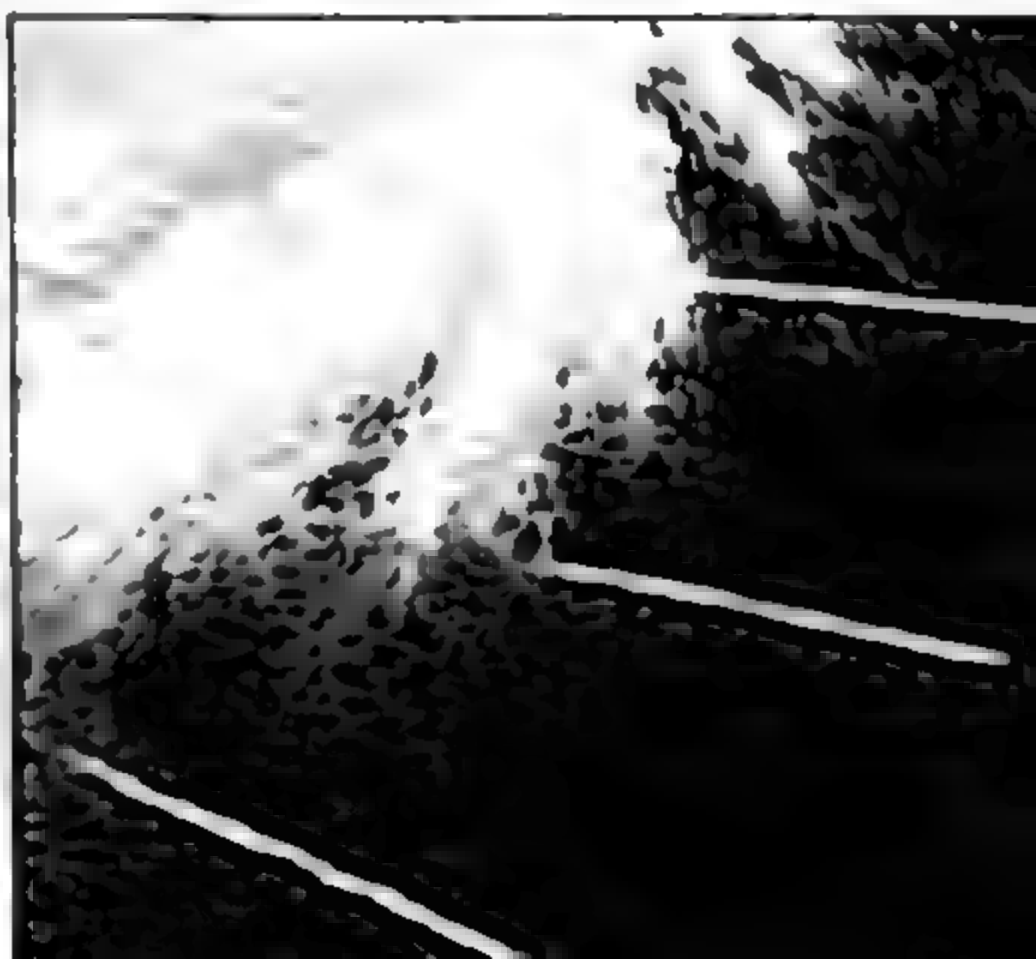
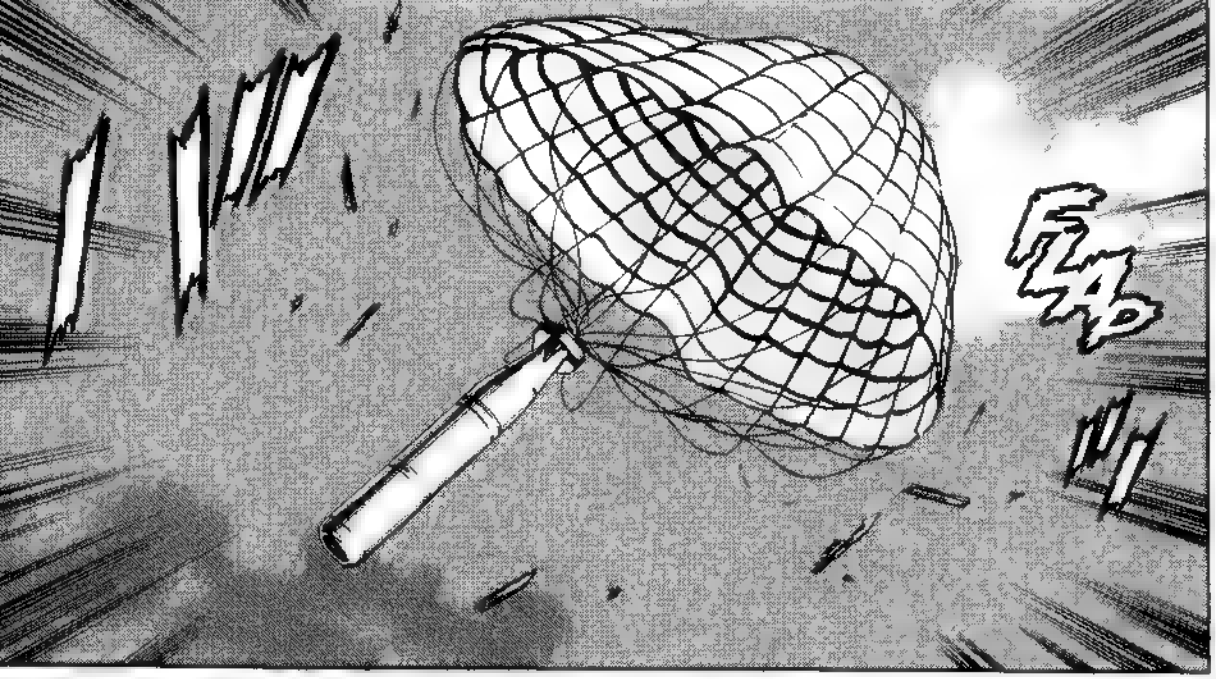
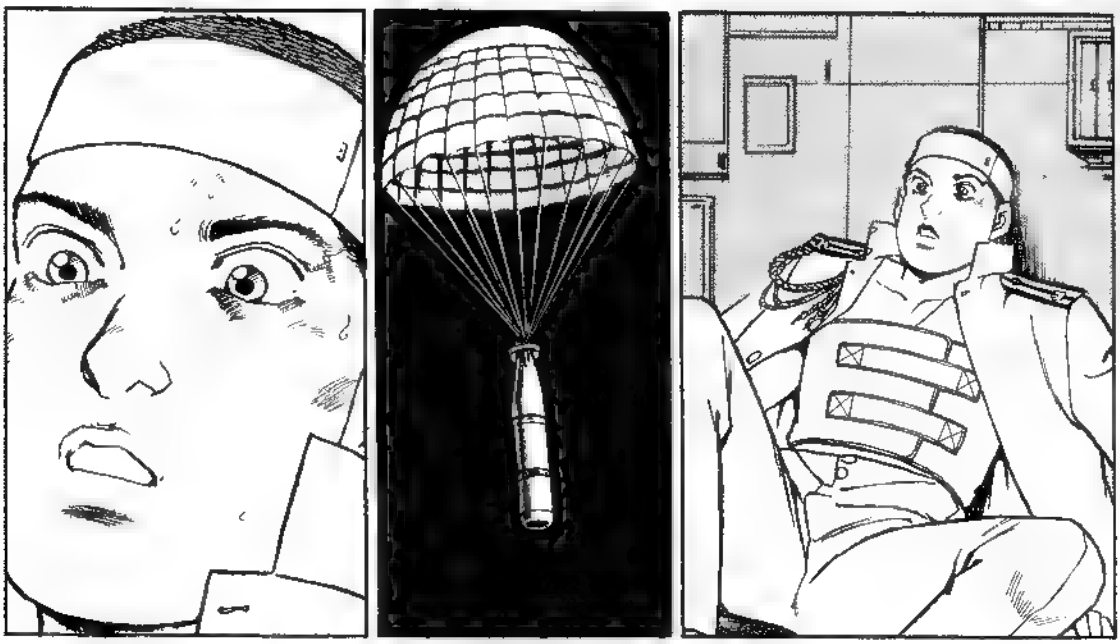
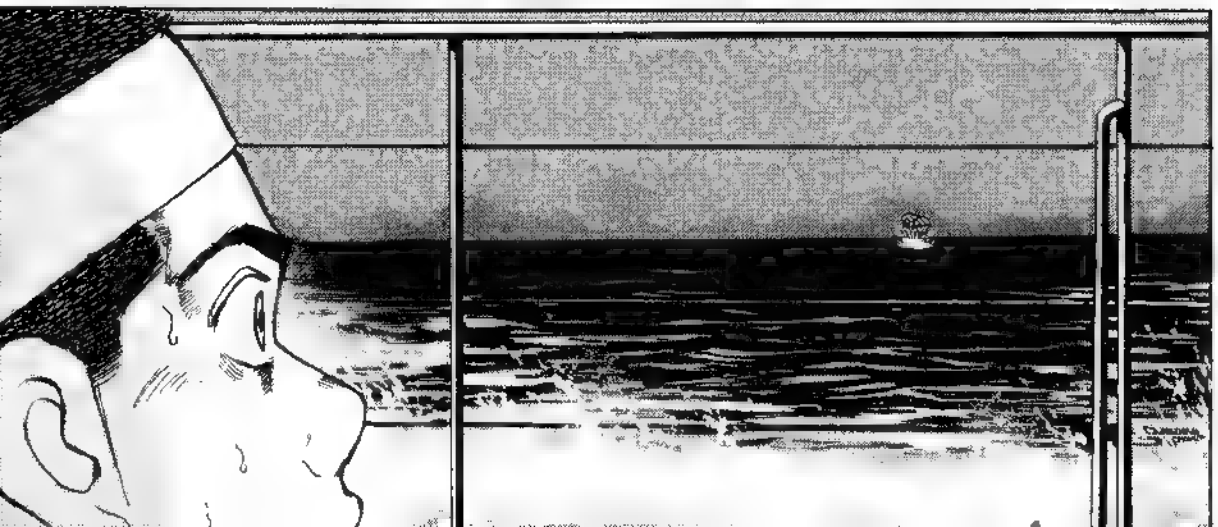

ZAT
182

THEY...
THEY
MISSED!!!




FLAP





WHAT THE HELL'S UP WITH THAT PARACHUTE?!
HUH?!
BLOOM
BLOOM
BLOOM

DARN TOOT'N!!!
IT REALLY IS A HOMING SIGNAL THAT'S APPROACHING!
CAPT. CHRIS! I'M PICKING UP AN ACOUSTIC HOMING SIGNAL!!!
WHAT?! THE REVERSE SONAR?
45° STARBOARD!!!
MOVE YOUR ASSES, PEOPLE!!
THE ROYAL NAVY IS IN THE MIDDLE OF DEVELOPPING IT...
HOW CAN THE JAP NAVY...?!
BOM
B.UUN

IF WE DON'T NEUTRALIZE IT, IT'LL FOLLOW US AND PREPARE AN OFFENSIVE!!!

IF WE WANT TO PROTECT THE SECRET OF OUR SHIP, IT'D BE BETTER TO LET IT SINK!

COMMANDER! IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT SUBMARINE IS COLLECTING DATA ON US.

STARTING WITH OUR MOBILITY IN EVADING THE TORPEDOES.

IF IT RESURFACES, IT'LL CERTAINLY INFORM THE AMERICAN NAVY H Q....

OF EVERYTHING IT KNOWS ABOUT OUR SHIP!!!

I ADVISE THE SELF-DESTRUCTION OF THE ASROC!!

CAPTAIN UMEZU"!

EVEN IF IT REPORTS ALL IT KNOWS, WE STILL HAVE OTHER OPTIONS!

BUT IF WE LET A SUB SINK THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE SUNK, IF WE LET MEN DIE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED. WE'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO GO BACK!!!

SEEING THAT WE'RE ACTUALLY IN WARTIME, WHAT DO WE MAKE OF THIS ATTACK...?
KADOMATSU
YESSIR ?
AND THE U.S.? ARE THEY OUR ENEMIES?
SEEING THAT THEY'RE AN ENEMY AND THERE'S A THREAT, YOU WANT TO KNOW IF ELIMINATING THEM...
IS A LEGITIMATE APPLICATION OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE?
SAT

BRIDGE TO CIC!
MAKE NO CHANGE ON THE ASROC.
YESSIR!
WHAT!?
BIUUN
BIUUN

DOM
A TORPEDO EQUIPPED WITH AN ACOUSTIC HOMING SIGNAL THAT'D FOLLOW US?!
STILL...THE SOURCE OF THE SOUND IS REALLY THERE! AND IT'S GETTING CLOSER!!
IT'S A TORPEDO!!!
AN ACOUSTIC HOMING SIGNAL OF A TORPEDO!!
DON'T PULL MY LEG!
DOM
DOM
DOM
DOM
...500 M!!!
DISTANCE TO THE TARGET...

CLAC

ROGER!!

NOW!!!

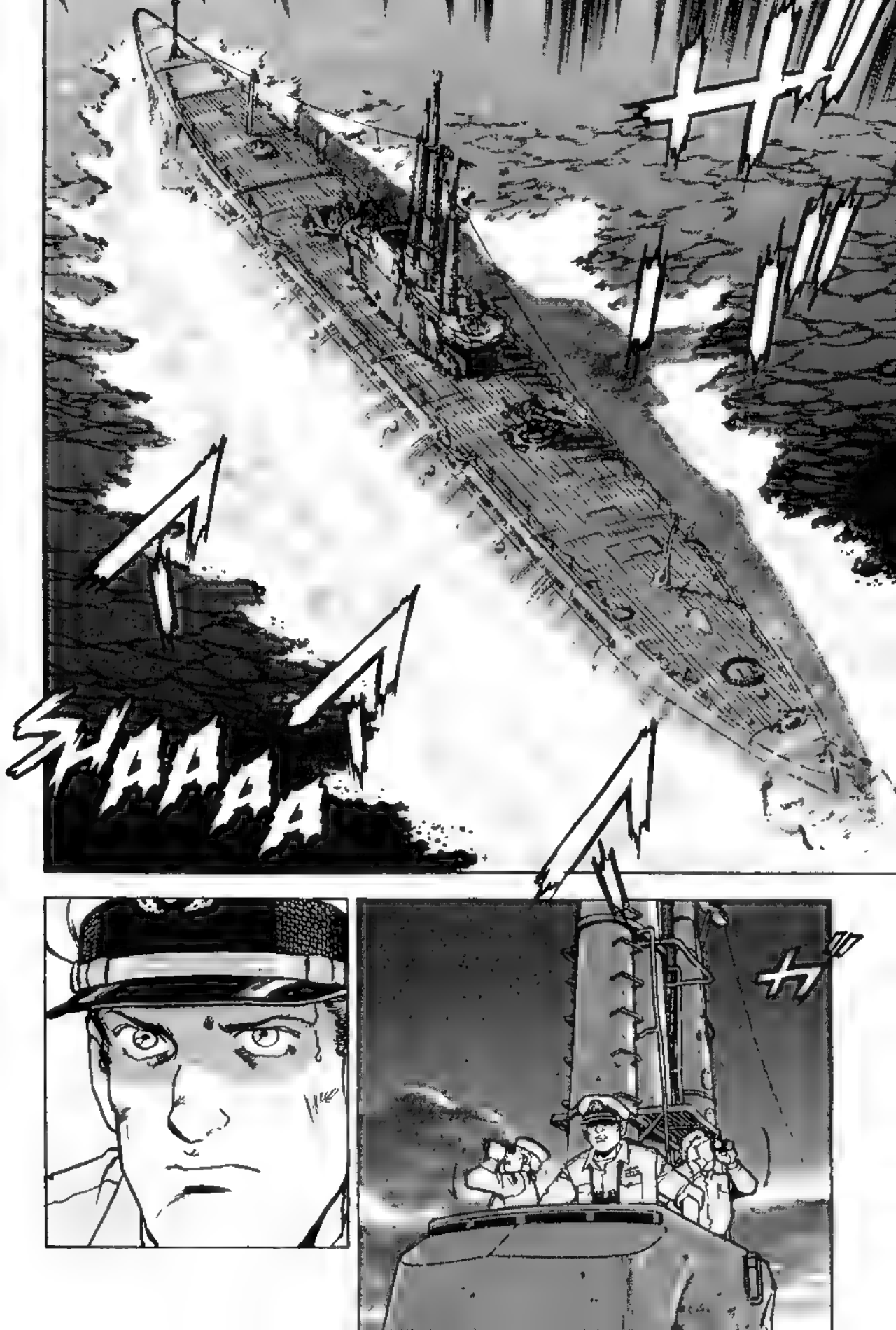
BLOW THE ASROC!!!

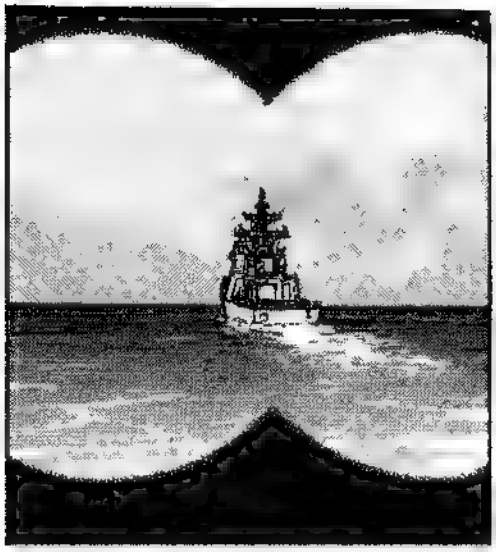
KA-BOOM

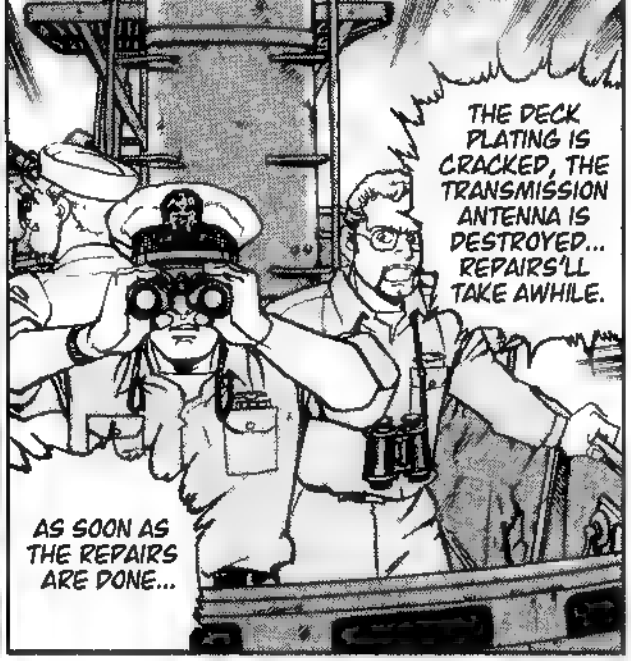
AAAH!!

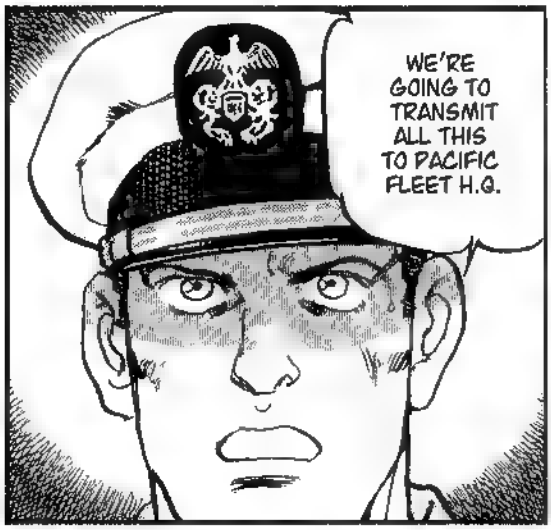
PRRRR
PRRRR
PRRRR

NO SIR
ARE YOU PICKING UP ENGINE NOISES FROM THE SUBMARINE ON SONAR?
THEY'RE SURFACING AWFUL QUICKLY
GRATING ONES FROM THE HULL-- THE SOUND OF PRESSURIZED AIR ESCAPING!
NO ENGINE NOISES, BUT...
YESSIR
...WE DODGED A BULLET FOR NOW.
WITH THIS


SHAAAA




THE DECK PLATING IS CRACKED, THE TRANSMISSION ANTENNA IS DESTROYED... REPAIRS'LL TAKE AWHILE.
AS SOON AS THE REPAIRS ARE DONE...


WE'RE GOING TO TRANSMIT ALL THIS TO PACIFIC FLEET H.Q.

YESSIR!!!
WE'RE HEADING BACK TO PORT AT PEARL HARBOR.

THE JAPS HAVE BUILT ONE MIGHTY SCARY ULTRA-MODERN WEAPON...
WE'LL HAVE A HELLUVA TIME GETTING 'EM TO BELIEVE IT, BUT...

SO THIS IS...
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HOW DO YOU FEEL?
YOU OKAY?
OR THE WILL OF THE DEVIL?
IS THIS GOD'S PLAN?
...21ST CENTURY COMBAT...
WAKE 8/4 END

WAKE 9 LT. COMMANDER TAKUMI KUSAKA'S CHOICE

AND WHEN THE TORPEDO WAS ONLY A *METER* AWAY FROM THE HULL...

I FELT LIKE MY BODY WAS GOING TO EXPLODE ..

BUT IN THE END, I KEPT MY COOL JUST LIKE IN THE EXERCISE.

LIKE MY BLOOD WAS BOILING...

I FELT A RUSH OF ADRENALINE.

WE WERE ON THE SHIP'S DECK AND I CAN TELL YOU IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.

PFFF THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU FOLLOWED EVENTS FROM THE CIC ON YOUR *SCREEN*. YOU DIDN'T FEEL THE REALITY OF IT.

IN ANY CASE, THAT ASROC WAS UNEXPECTED...

OVER THERE, I CAN TELL YOU, OUR LEGS WERE SHAKING...

HE'S GOING TO POLISH WEAPONS.. JUST AS WELL FOR HIM...

HE WAS ALWAYS SCARED SHITLESS, EVEN DURING FIREARM EXERCISES.

LT. KIKUCHI WAS **NOT** HAPPY.

HE'S BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE THIRD SECTION, IN ARMAMENTS.

IT WAS LT. YONEKURA WITH THE ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER, HUH?

HE GOING TO GET THE BOOT?

BUT ARE WE ANY BETTER THAN HIM? WAIT AWHILE UNTIL WE FIND OURSELVES FACING A HUNDRED AMERICAN SHIPS....

AND THE NEXT TIME, IT'LL BE WITH AIRBORNE MISSILES...

EVEN IF THEY'RE OLD PISTON AND PROPULSION MODELS...

MAYBE I'D DO THE SAME THING AS HIM.

NOT ONLY DO WE ONLY HAVE GREEN-HORNS IN OUR CAMP, THERE'S UNCERTAINTY OVER WHETHER WE CAN RETURN HOME...

IT'S THE FIRST ***REAL*** BATTLE FOR ALL THE MEN. THEY AREN'T EXACTLY GUNG-HO.

WITH SUCH AN AMBIENT STRESS LEVEL, IF THERE'S ANOTHER CONFRON-TATION, THE RISKS WILL BE HIGH...

THAT'S NOT OKAY, RIGHT? THAT TYPE OF TEACHING HAS NO PLACE IN THE ARMY.

IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, WITH YONEKURA, IT'S A CASE OF EVERY CLOUD HAVING A SILVER LINING.

HE INSISTED HE WANTED TO SEE THE COMBAT WITH HIS OWN EYES...

YESSIR...

AND KUSAKA SAW EVERYTHING, HUH?

SO THEN HE SAW THE ASROC LAUNCH... HOW DID HE REACT?

"SO THIS IS 21ST CENTURY COMBAT..." THOSE WERE HIS EXACT WORDS.

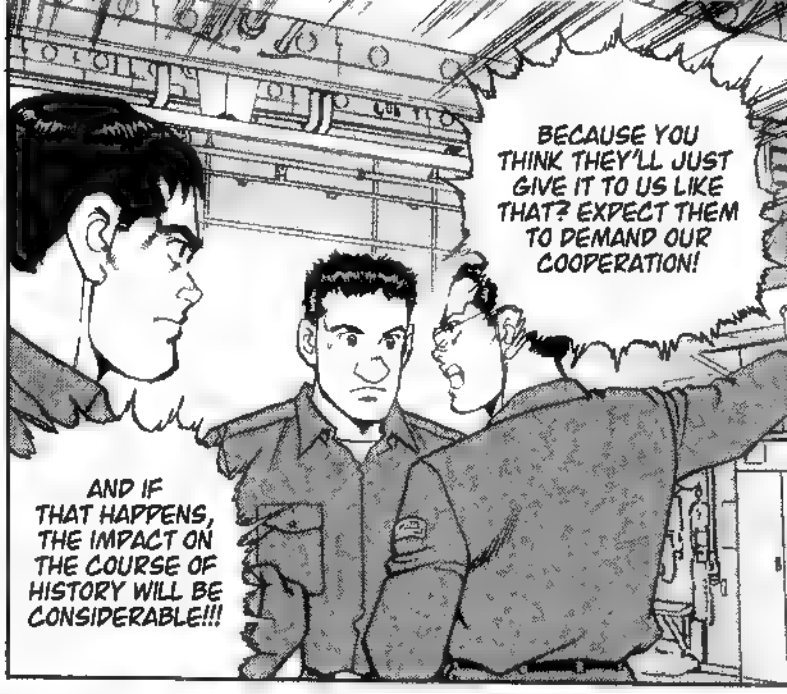
"IS THIS GOD'S PLAN? OR THE WILL OF THE DEVIL...?"

...

IN HIS LEATHER BRIEFCASE, THERE ARE REPORT NOTEBOOKS WITH BLACK COVERS...
HE'S A DANGEROUS MAN...
IF HE SAW ALL THAT...
WE CAN'T TAKE OUR EYES OFF OF H M...
AN INTELLI-GENCE PROFES-SIONAL.
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY DOUBT THAT HE'S A SENIOR COMMUNI-CATIONS OFFICER.
FACTS ABOUT THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY ARE DESCRIBED IN AN EXTREMELY PRECISE MANNER...
HE'S AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS MAN.
HE'S VERY YOUNG, BUT ALREADY A LT. COMMANDER? HE PROBABLY BELONGS TO THE NAVY ELITE, A CAREER OFFICER FROM KOSHU NAVAL ACADEMY...
HE WAS ON A PLANE THAT HAD LOST ANY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND THAT WAS REJOINING THE PRINCIPAL FLEET WHEN IT WAS SHOT DOWN.

...STILL EXISTS...
IN THE 21ST CENTURY, THE JAPANESE EMPIRE...
NOT TO MENTION THE AFFECT ON THE BEHAVIOR OF OUR MEN, WHO'RE ALREADY READY TO TURN TAIL.
IF WE LEAVE HIM ALONE, HE'LL CONTINUE TO COLLECT INTEL UNTIL HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS SHIP...
WHETHER IT'S FUEL OR RATIONS, IF WE COULD GET IT, IT'D ONLY BE FROM THE JAPANESE ARMY.
HE COULD ACT AS A LINK.
BUT KIKUCHI, THINK ABOUT SUPPLIES...
THAT MAN COULD BE USEFUL TO US.

I WON'T BACK DOWN.
GIVE A LITTLE THOUGHT TO OUR FAMILIES, TO OUR FRIENDS WE LEFT BEHIND IN THE 21ST CENTURY...

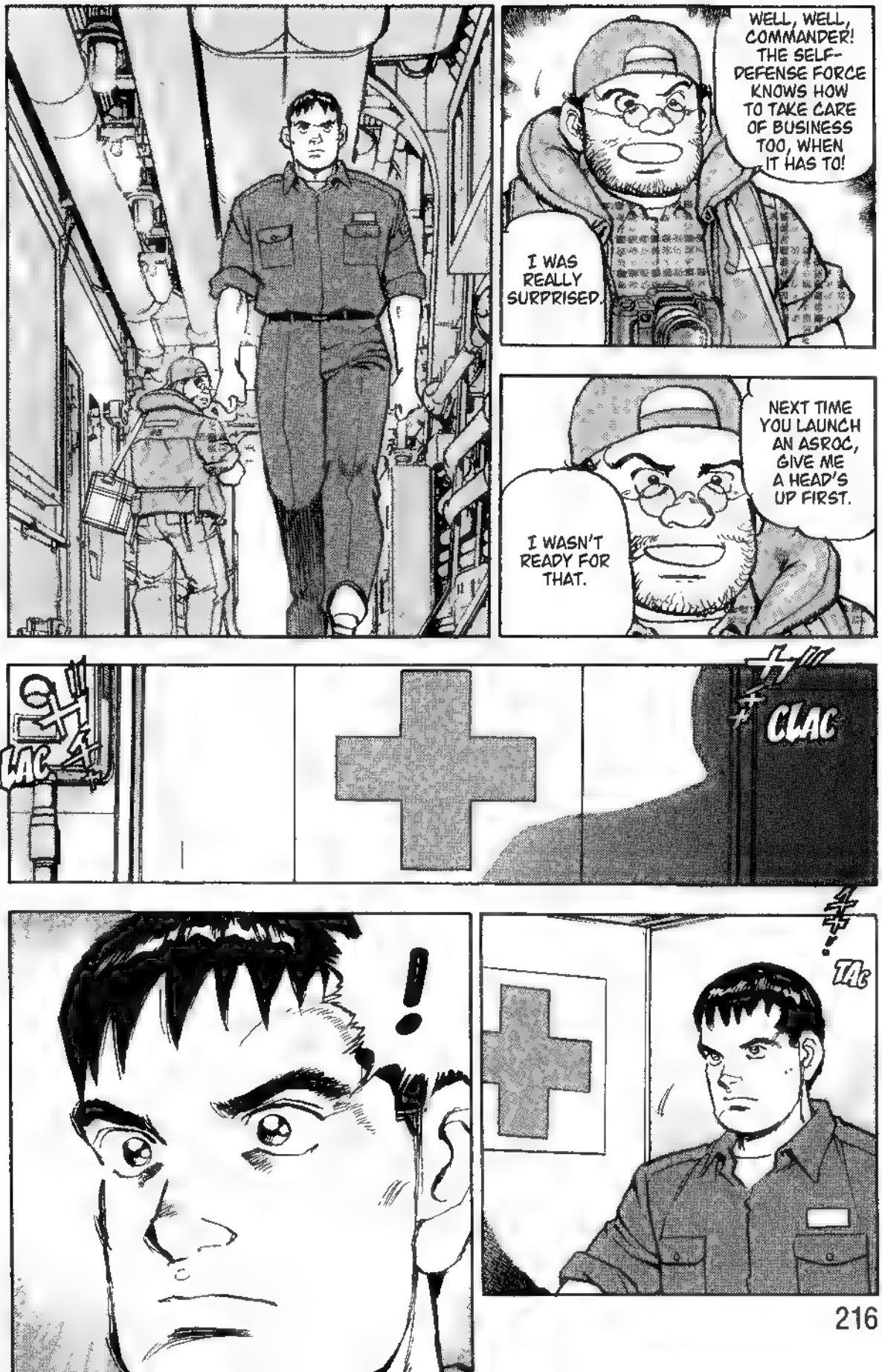

BECAUSE YOU THINK THEY'LL JUST GIVE IT TO US LIKE THAT? EXPECT THEM TO DEMAND OUR COOPERATION!
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THE IMPACT ON THE COURSE OF HISTORY WILL BE CONSIDERABLE!!!

IF WE CHANGE HISTORY CARELESSLY, THEY'LL NO LONGER EXIST!
THEY'LL DISAPPEAR! ALL OF THEM!

IF WE WANT TO SUCCEED, THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY.

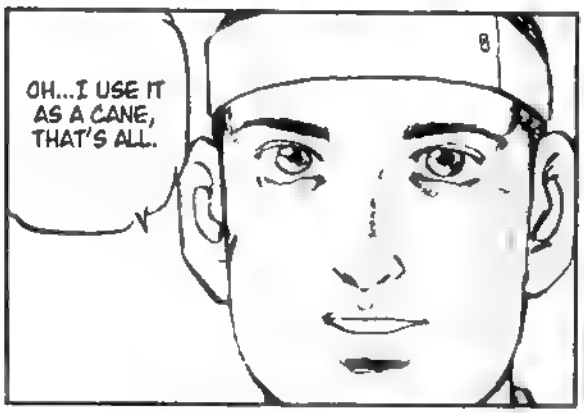
ANYWAY, IT'S IM-POSSIBLE.
HOW DO YOU WANT TO DEPRIVE HIM OF ACCESS TO ALL OUR SHIP'S INFO?

I'M ASKING YOU NOT TO INTERFERE
!?
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SITUATION I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
HUM?
LIEUTENANT, GIVE ME THE KEY TO THE INFIRMARY...
DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO
NO HE'D WANT TO
102


WELL, WELL, COMMANDER! THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS TOO, WHEN IT HAS TO!
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
NEXT TIME YOU LAUNCH AN ASROC, GIVE ME A HEAD'S UP FIRST.
I WASN'T READY FOR THAT.
CLAC
CLAC
!
TAC

YOUR UNIFORM?
THE NURSE TOOK IT TO GET IT WASHED AND GAVE ME THIS ONE IN THE MEANTIME.

DAN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES IT SUIT ME?


OH...I USE IT AS A CANE, THAT'S ALL.

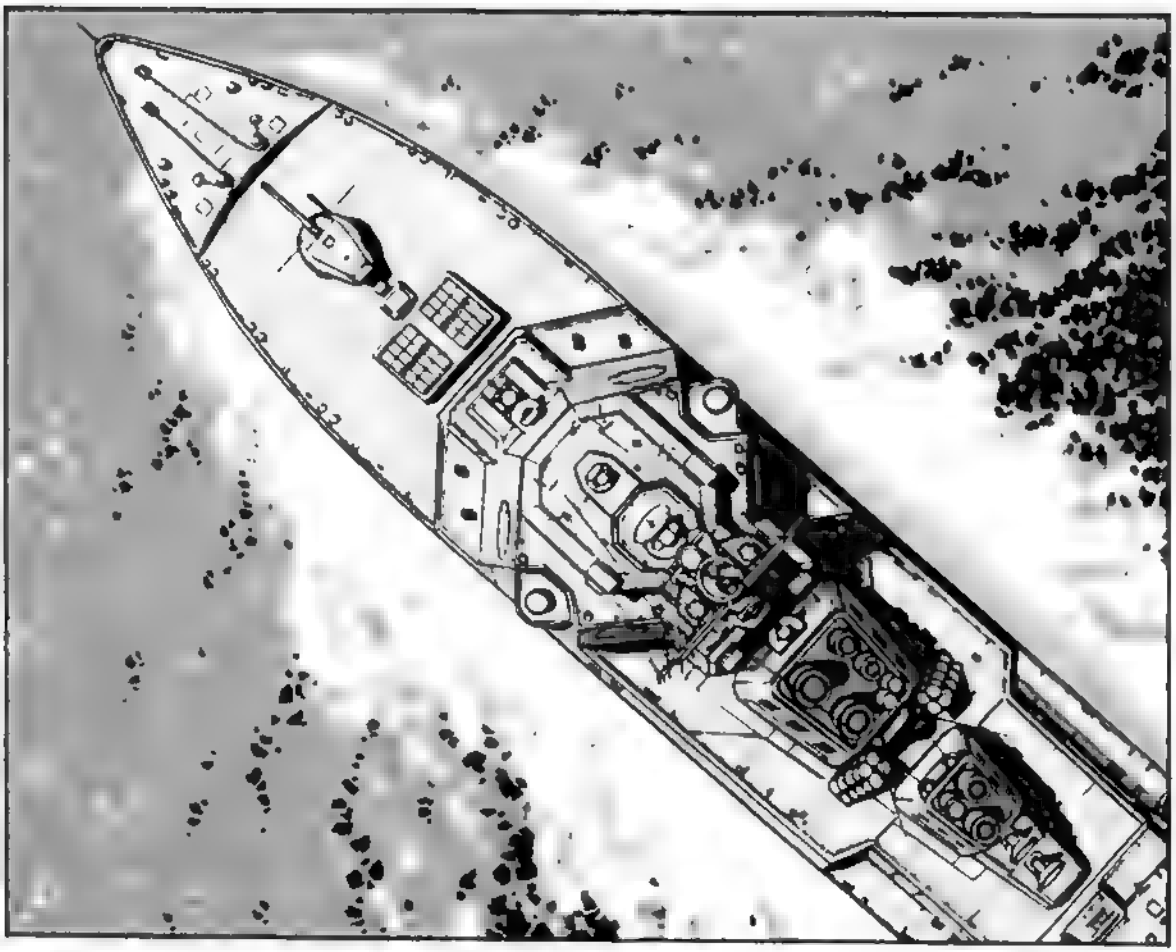
YES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SABRE.

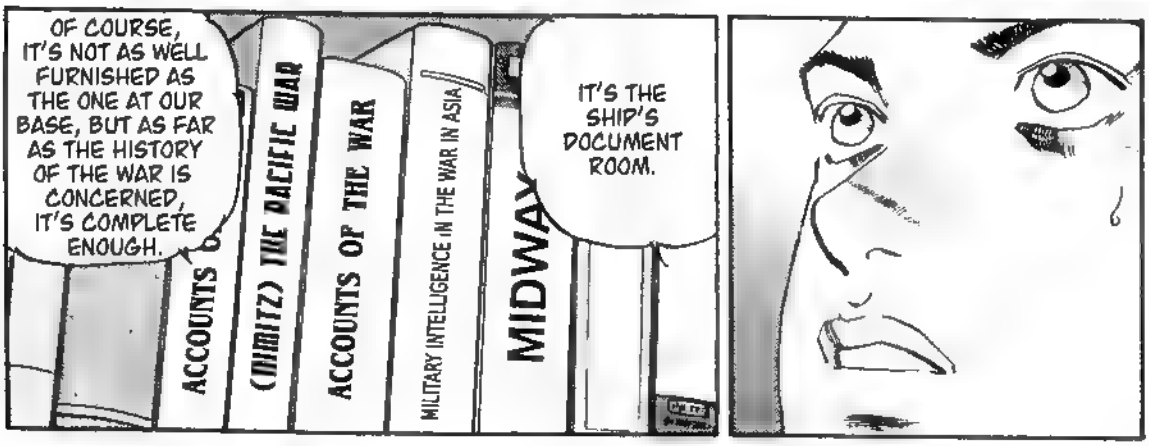
SIT HERE. WE HAVE A WAYS TO GO.

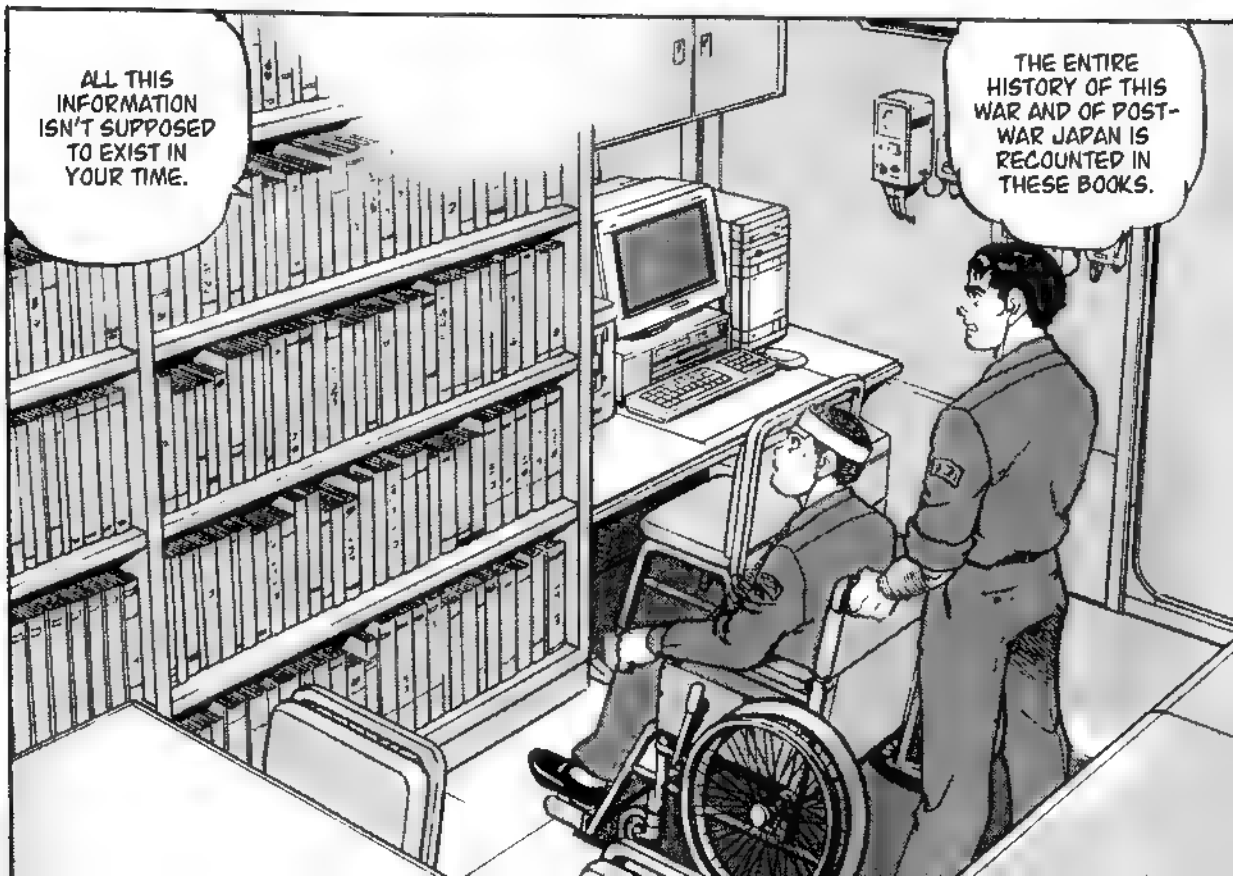
TAC

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SOLICITUDE... I APPRECIATE IT...
TAC
...A GUIDED TOUR OF THE SHIP?
I'M GOING TO HAVE...
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.

COM-MANDER! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
!?
HE'S NOT GOING TO TOSS HIM...
...OVER-BOARD, IS HE?!
NO...




OF COURSE, IT'S NOT AS WELL FURNISHED AS THE ONE AT OUR BASE, BUT AS FAR AS THE HISTORY OF THE WAR IS CONCERNED, IT'S COMPLETE ENOUGH.
ACCOUNTS
(NIMITZ) THE PACIFIC WAR
ACCOUNTS OF THE WAR
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN THE WAR IN ASIA
MIDWAY
IT'S THE SHIP'S DOCUMENT ROOM.


ALL THIS INFORMATION ISN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST IN YOUR TIME.
THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THIS WAR AND OF POST-WAR JAPAN IS RECOUNTED IN THESE BOOKS.

IT'S UP TO YOU.
YOU'RE FREE TO READ IT OR NOT.
WHY SHOW ME THIS?
WHY?
WE'LL WAIT FOR TO BECOME RESIGNED!
SUPPOSING I DO READ... WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?
AT SOME POINT OR ANOTHER, YOU'LL WANT TO KNOW...
BY WHATEVER MEANS.

YOU WON'T LET ME LEAVE THE SHIP ALIVE, IS THAT IT?
TAG
YOU ALREADY KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT US AND OUR SHIP, AND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ONLY HAVE ONE SOLUTION--TO LINK YOUR DESTINY TO OUR OWN.

THAT'S EXACTLY... WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR...
THE DAY YOU SAVED ME...
...LT. COMMANDER TAKUMI KUSAKA OF THE IMPERIAL NAVY, DIED.
THE PACIFIC WAR
MISTAKES OF THE PACIFIC WAR
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF LEARNING THE FATE OF THE WORLD?!

END OF VOLUME 1